

2012 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 576

Commending Herndon Elementary School.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, April 18, 2012

WHEREAS, Herndon Elementary School proudly celebrated in 2011 its 50th anniversary of providing an outstanding education to students in its current facility; and

WHEREAS, while the present-day Herndon Elementary School opened its doors in 1961, the first public school in Herndon was built in 1869; and

WHEREAS, students at that first school used slates instead of paper and pencil, sat on benches, drank water from a bucket with a dipper, and warmed themselves by a wood stove; and

WHEREAS, after the first school burned, students met at "the Yellow House" at 719 Elden Street until a one-room schoolhouse was built in 1875 at 725 Center Street with Mr. Kidwell as schoolmaster; and

WHEREAS, in 1912 the Herndon School opened with three classrooms for all grades and two outdoor basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a 220-yard track; and

WHEREAS, the 1912 school building burned in 1920 and was replaced with a 12-room school that underwent frequent additions to accommodate the growing student population; in the 1940s, individual grades began to meet in separate classrooms; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1940s, the first cafeteria lunch program in Fairfax County started at the Herndon School, with meals costing five cents and parents frequently sending in a bushel of potatoes or tomatoes for stew or soup; and

WHEREAS, in 1957 Herndon Elementary School became a separate entity with Dudley Page serving as principal; four years later, the new building began classes at its current location at 630 Dranesville Road; and

WHEREAS, during its inaugural year at the new building, students paid 25 cents for lunch and three cents for milk, while teachers received an annual salary of \$5,600; the school received state accreditation in 1964; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Herndon Elementary School continued to grow, with the addition of a gymnasium, music rooms, elevators, and a stage area and various reconfigurations to better serve student and staff needs; and

WHEREAS, Herndon Elementary School students continue to receive outstanding instruction from dedicated teachers who have been led by outstanding administrators as parents and members of the local community have generously supported the school's efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Herndon Elementary School hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Ann Gwynn, principal of Herndon Elementary School, as an expression of the House of Delegates' congratulations and appreciation for the school's commitment to its students.

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