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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 325**

Offered February 17, 2014

*Commending Hybla Valley Elementary School.*

Patrons—Surovell; Senators: Ebbin and Puller

WHEREAS, Hybla Valley Elementary School, located in Fairfax County, proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Hybla Valley Elementary School was constructed on land once owned by George Mason, the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and was originally proposed to be part of the largest airport in the world, the George Washington Air Junction for the landing of Zeppelins in the 1920s, and ultimately became Hybla Valley Airport; and

WHEREAS, opening in 1964, Hybla Valley Elementary School supported 350 students in first through sixth grade; today, it has expanded to an enrollment of 935 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and 141 staff; and

WHEREAS, Hybla Valley Elementary School currently sits adjacent to the largest park in Fairfax County, Huntley Meadows Park, which is an asset and resource to the teachers, students, and Mt. Vernon community; and

WHEREAS, as the implementation of full-day kindergarten spread across the country, Hybla Valley Elementary School made the transition during the 2003 - 2004 school year; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Hybla Valley Elementary School underwent a significant renovation; the two-story addition added nine general education classrooms, one music classroom, one band/strings classroom, one art classroom, four English as a second language classrooms, four special education classrooms, and one speech classroom; and

WHEREAS, emphasizing literacy, hands-on experiences, character education, and collaborative and critical-thinking skills, Hybla Valley Elementary School works together with the students, parents, and community to create a positive learning environment in which all students can thrive; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the responsive classroom school model in which academic and social learning occur simultaneously, teachers at Hybla Valley Elementary School are trained to build strong classroom communities and teach communication and collaboration skills to their students; and

WHEREAS, over the years, technology has played a large part in the development of the curriculum at Hybla Valley Elementary School; the school promotes a computer-based language arts program in kindergarten through sixth grade and has SMART boards available in each classroom to provide technology-enhanced instruction; and

WHEREAS, participating in programs like family nights, girl power, literacy collaborative, and a multitude of after-school programs, Hybla Valley Elementary School has supported its students, parents, and staff for five decades, helping them achieve greatness both inside and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years, Hybla Valley Elementary School has provided an outstanding educational experience for its students through the devoted leadership of the principals, the support staff, and the teachers; and

WHEREAS, Hybla Valley Elementary School is not only an asset to its students and their families, but a pillar and resource to the entire Hybla Valley Community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Hybla Valley Elementary School 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 Dr. Lauren Sheehy, principal of Hybla Valley Elementary School, as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for its decades of service to the children of Fairfax County.