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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 460

Offered March 3, 2014

Celebrating the life of Mary Wilkinson Gaston.

Patrons—Toscano; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, Mary Wilkinson Gaston, a respected educator, passionate activist, and beloved member of the Charlottesville community, died on November 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Savannah, Georgia, Mary Wilkinson inherited a love of helping others from her parents, who served as educators and missionaries in Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, Mary Wilkinson graduated with honors from Swarthmore College, where she met her husband, Paul Gaston; she later earned a master's degree from what was then known as Atlanta University; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career as a kindergarten teacher at Venable Elementary and Clark Elementary Schools, Mary Gaston guided and inspired countless young students; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gaston was a recognized leader in the community; serving on the Charlottesville Council on Human Rights, she advocated for desegregation and civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, a caring and gracious woman who worked to better the lives of her fellow Charlottesville residents, Mary Gaston donated her time and talents to many civic and service organizations, including the NAACP and Virginia Organizing; and

WHEREAS, Mary Gaston will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her devoted husband of 61 years, Paul; children, Blaise, Chinta, and Gareth, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Mary Wilkinson Gaston, an educator, activist, and pillar of the Charlottesville community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Mary Wilkinson Gaston as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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