

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5210

Commending the Coal Pit Learning Center.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, September 18, 2014

Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, for nearly 40 years, the Coal Pit Learning Center has provided to children from low-income families in Henrico County the educational tools and support to achieve success in later life; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Dorothy Gallimore opened the Coal Pit Learning Center in the historic Coal Pit School building, which had served the children of African American coal mining families for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the Coal Pit Learning Center serves children between the ages of three and five and provides low-income families with the same benefits of developmental preschool and early child-care programs; and

WHEREAS, with a diverse curriculum that explores art, music, and science, the Coal Pit Learning Center helps students develop visual, motor, and prereading skills; by creating a safe, supportive environment, the center allows students to build confidence and a positive attitude toward lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Coal Pit Learning Center has expanded and thrived with the help of generous donations from local individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Coal Pit Learning Center has enjoyed a long relationship with the Rotary Club of Innsbrook, which has hosted fundraisers and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars since the late 1990s, allowing the center to nearly double in size and begin operating on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, over the years, many dedicated faculty, staff, and board members of the Coal Pit Learning Center have helped over 1,000 students graduate from preschool well prepared to continue their education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Coal Pit Learning Center for almost four decades of service to the children and families of Henrico County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dorothy Gallimore, executive director of the Coal Pit Learning Center, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the center's work to provide new opportunities to children of low-income families in Henrico County.

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