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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 878

Offered February 19, 2015

Celebrating the life of Ferdinand T. Day.

Patrons—Herring and Krupicka; Senators: Barker, Ebbin and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Ferdinand T. Day, a respected former member of the Alexandria City School Board who strove to enhance the quality of education for all students and a devoted leader in the region's civil rights movement, died on January 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a native of Alexandria, Ferdinand Day graduated from Armstrong Technical High School in Washington, D.C., and earned a bachelor's degree from Miner Teachers College; and

WHEREAS, Ferdinand Day completed an internship with the U.S. Department of State and completed advanced management courses at the Foreign Service Institute; he served his country for many years, retiring as a Foreign Service reserve officer in 1978; and

WHEREAS, a wise and trusted mentor to civil rights activists in the 1960s, Ferdinand Day dedicated himself to securing rights and opportunities for African Americans in Alexandria; he served as a member of the Secret Seven, a group that studied community issues and advised local government; and

WHEREAS, joining the Alexandria City School Board in 1964, Ferdinand Day worked to achieve integration of local public schools and became the first African American to chair a public school board in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Ferdinand Day provided sound, moral leadership, which led to the consolidation of T.C. Williams High School in 1971 and the integration of other local schools; in his two decades of working to enhance local education, he also served as the vice chair of both the Northern Virginia and Virginia State Boards of Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Ferdinand Day was appointed by the Secretary of Education to assist with the implementation of desegregation plans at higher education institutions in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, earning many awards and accolades for his good work, Ferdinand Day was recognized by groups at local, state, and national levels; he was named a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ferdinand Day will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his daughter, Gwen, and her family and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; 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 Ferdinand T. Day, a respected civil servant and a passionate advocate for social justice and equal rights in Alexandria; 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 Ferdinand T. Day as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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