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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled December 7, 2015

Celebrating the life of Evelyn Thompson Lawrence.

Patrons—O'Quinn; Senator: Carrico

WHEREAS, Evelyn Thompson Lawrence of Marion, a devoted educator and a highly admired community leader, died on August 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence attended Carnegie High School in Marion and graduated from Gary High School in Gary, West Virginia; she earned a bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College and a master's degree from the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence worked to impart her passion for lifelong learning as a teacher at Carnegie High School until 1965; when the public school system became integrated and Carnegie High School closed, she continued to inspire students at Marion Primary School; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected educator in the region, Evelyn Lawrence was the first teacher in Smyth County to hold a master's degree; and

WHEREAS, working to further strengthen and enhance the region, Evelyn Lawrence served on the board of directors of Smyth County Community Hospital and as chair of the Cultural Relations Committee of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence earned numerous awards and accolades for her generous community service, including the 2007 Splendid Senior Among Us award from the Town of Marion and the 1985 Citizen of the Year Award from the Marion Rotary Club; July 22, 2006, was named Evelyn Lawrence Day in the Town of Marion; and

WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Evelyn Lawrence served as choir director and organist at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church; after the church closed, she enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as an active member of Grace United Methodist Church and Greenwood United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by her daughter, Sheila, Evelyn Lawrence will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by numerous family members, friends, and beloved neighbors in Marion; 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 Evelyn Thompson Lawrence, an educator and a servant to the Marion 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 Evelyn Thompson Lawrence as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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