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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 456

Offered March 4, 2016

Celebrating the life of Hilda Y. Warden.

Patrons—McClellan, Carr and McQuinn; Senator: McEachin

WHEREAS, Hilda Y. Warden, a respected educator who broke down barriers as one of the first African Americans to enter the Richmond Professional Institute School of Social Work and who served the Commonwealth as a legislative assistant to a Virginia Senator, died on August 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, Hilda Warden was an exceptionally gifted student; she graduated from Armstrong High School at the age of 13 and earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University at the age of 17; and

WHEREAS, while attending Virginia Union University, Hilda Warden was a founding member of the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a charter member of what became the sorority's Richmond alumnae chapter; she was honored as the chapter's oldest living member in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Hilda Warden began her professional career as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse near Roanoke; she later worked in the Richmond Department of Welfare and the Richmond Department for the Aging; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to her community, Hilda Warden decided to further her education at the Richmond Professional Institute School of Social Work; she was one of the first African American students admitted to the school, but, unlike many of her white classmates, she was forced to quit her job and register as a full-time graduate student; and

WHEREAS, after earning a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1954, Hilda Warden became a counselor at Virginia Union University, where she served for 11 years and directed many federal programs; and

WHEREAS, Hilda Warden served the residents of the Commonwealth for 18 years as a legislative assistant to the Honorable Yvonne B. Miller, who became the first African American woman elected to the General Assembly in 1983; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by her husband of 68 years, George, Sr., and one son, Ronald, Hilda Warden will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her son, George, Jr.; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; 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 Hilda Y. Warden; 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 Hilda Y. Warden as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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