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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 334

Offered January 25, 2017

Celebrating the life of Sue Ella Boatright-Wells.

Patron—Kilgore

WHEREAS, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells of Hiltons, a respected member of the Scott County community who enriched the lives of countless students through her work at Mountain Empire Community College, died on August 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells grew up in the Fort Blackmore area of Scott County and graduated from Dungannon High School; she earned an associate's degree from Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) and a bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells served as the dean of workforce development and continuing education at MECC, ensuring that students had the tools and training to meet employers' needs and succeed in their chosen careers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to organizing Home Craft Days at MECC for more than 35 years, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells helped preserve the culture and heritage of Southwest Virginia by establishing the MECC Mountain Music School; and

WHEREAS, the Mountain Music School has given students of all ages from the United States, Canada, and Scotland the opportunity to study fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, shape note singing, and songwriting; Sue Ella Boatright-Wells was most proud of her work to preserve Old Time Mountain Music and also helped create the Junior Appalachian Musicians programs; and

WHEREAS, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells worked to enhance the community as a member of the Rotary Club of Scott County, the Scott County Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, and many other civic and service organizations; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by a son, David, Sue Ella Boatright-Wells will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband of 17 years, Beech; sons, Samuel and James, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Sue Ella Boatright-Wells, an admired member of the community who worked hard to create new opportunities for students at Mountain Empire Community College; 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 Sue Ella Boatright-Wells as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.