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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 483**

Offered March 5, 2018

*Celebrating the life of Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell.*

Patrons—McQuinn, Bagby, Bourne and Carr

WHEREAS, Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell, a devoted educator and respected community leader in Richmond, passed away on July 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a native of Allendale, South Carolina, Wanda Mitchell worked in higher education for more than 30 years, finishing her career as an affiliate professor in the Department of Counseling and Special Education at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Mitchell gave years of dedicated service to various specialized organizations, including serving on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, on the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence, and as faculty for the Higher Education Resources Services Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Mitchell volunteered with many church and civic organizations and served on community boards; she was a member of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Side by Side, Leadership Metro Richmond, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Wanda Mitchell graduated from the Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute for Women in Higher Education and Faith-Based Organizations, and she received several other awards and professional accolades; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Wanda Mitchell served as a faculty member at the University of New Hampshire, holding the title of chief diversity officer; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Mitchell served as the founding vice president for inclusive excellence and served as the founding chief diversity officer at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2012 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Mitchell is survived by her father, John E. Tilley; her two sisters, Bunita Tilley and Lisa D. Tilley; her brother Dennis R. Patterson; and a large and loving family; 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 Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell; 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 Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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