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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 488

Offered March 5, 2018

Commending Gordon Stokes.

Patrons—Boysko and Plum

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes, a dedicated leader and educator who serves as principal at Rachel Carson Middle School, was named the 2017 Outstanding New Principal by Fairfax County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes earned a master's degree in history from the University of Virginia; he later received a National Board certification in social studies in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes began his career in education at Rachel Carson Middle School, where he spent nine years as a history teacher; he then served as a LEAD Fairfax administrative intern at Francis Scott Key Middle School before becoming an assistant principal at Luther Jackson Middle School and South County Middle School; and

WHEREAS, in July 2015, Gordon Stokes began serving as principal of Rachel Carson Middle School; during his tenure, he has articulated a compelling vision for the school's future and earned a reputation as an innovative and collaborative leader; and

WHEREAS, as principal at Rachel Carson Middle School, Gordon Stokes has carefully observed classes and reached out to students by hosting group lunches; he also oversaw the school's move to a block schedule to allow more time for students to learn 21st century skills; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes selected "Crossing Over: Proud Traditions, Bright Future" as the theme for his first year at Rachel Carson Middle School; he also made the novel *The Crossover* required reading for all students and staff and arranged to have its author, Kwame Alexander, speak at the school; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Stokes was one of five finalists for the 2017 Outstanding New Principal award; he was announced as the winner at the annual Fairfax County Public Schools Honors Event held on June 7, 2017; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Gordon Stokes on being named the 2017 Outstanding New Principal by Fairfax County Public Schools; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Gordon Stokes as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his spectacular achievements and best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCED

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