

2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

20105888D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 149

Offered January 17, 2020

Celebrating the life of Maya LaFonn Smith.

Patron—McQuinn

WHEREAS, Maya LaFonn Smith, a beloved member of the Charles City community who touched countless lives as an author, public speaker, and fundraiser for organizations supporting children with cancer, died on September 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, born to Ronald and Melissa Smith on July 27, 2005, Maya Smith was a natural leader who brought joy to her family and friends through her confidence, grace, and zest for life; and

WHEREAS, at the age of four, Maya Smith began attending Landmark Christian School, where she earned accolades as an honor student and began to cultivate her deep and abiding faith; and

WHEREAS, Maya Smith was baptized at Little Elam Baptist Church in Charles City in 2012; she joined the youth choir and made many contributions to the congregation; and

WHEREAS, during a courageous two-year battle with brain cancer, Maya Smith authored the book *Flight of Friendship*, an inspiring story about new beginnings, unlikely bonds, and the importance of staying true to yourself; and

WHEREAS, Maya Smith donated a portion of her book proceeds to support other children living with cancer through the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation and Connor's Heroes Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Maya Smith raised more than \$15,000 for the Children's Hospital Foundation, became the spokesperson for the 2018 Anthem LemonAid fundraisers, and appeared in several television and radio programs to raise awareness of childhood cancers; and

WHEREAS, Maya Smith will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her parents, Ronald, Jr., and Melissa; her brother, Ronald III; 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 Maya LaFonn Smith; 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 Maya LaFonn Smith as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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