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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 267

Offered February 19, 2020

Celebrating the life of Rosetta Cole Gilbert.

Patrons—Kory, Davis, Leftwich and Mullin; Senators: Kiggans, McClellan, McPike and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Rosetta Cole Gilbert, a vibrant resident of Fairfax County who was an active volunteer for local schools, youth organizations, and community events, died on January 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, born in Paris, France, to a military family, Rosetta "Colis" Cole Gilbert returned to the United States in 1960 and grew up in the Rose Hill neighborhood of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert attended Rose Hill Elementary School, Mark Twain Middle School, and St. Mary's Academy and graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School; she was a passionate lifelong learner who never missed an opportunity to expand her knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert pursued a career as a typist and systems administrator for several firms, including Price Waterhouse; she used her expertise to establish her own word processing firm, WordMasters, which prepared restaurant reviews, contract bids, and other documents; and

WHEREAS, after her well-earned retirement from WordMasters in 1993, Colis Gilbert devoted her energies to raising her family and strengthening the community through volunteer leadership; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert earned recognition for her generous work at Parklawn Elementary School, Belvedere Elementary School, and Glasgow Middle School and supported youth soccer teams, Odyssey of the Mind teams, and two local Girl Scouts of the USA troops; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert was a longtime supporter of Fairfax County farmers markets, where she spent countless hours and developed strong relationships with local farmers and vendors; she was renowned for her own talents at traditional crafts and cooking methods, and many friends cherished her gifts of handmade embroidery, candles, baked goods, and other items; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert's greatest joy in life was her family, and she relished every opportunity to spend time with them at concerts, at the beach, or on road trips to watch Formula One races around the country; and

WHEREAS, Colis Gilbert will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her beloved husband, Ken; her children, Lauren and Earl; 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 Rosetta Cole Gilbert, a beloved community leader in Fairfax County; 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 Rosetta Cole Gilbert as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.