

20106172D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 358

Offered February 27, 2020

Celebrating the life of Nita Jones.

Patrons—Carr, Adams, D.M., Krizek, Murphy and Willett; Senators: Hashmi and McClellan

WHEREAS, Nita Jones, celebrated columnist at the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, passionate social activist, and beloved member of the Richmond community, died on December 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Richmond and educated at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond, Nita Jones was a natural fit to cover the city she knew and loved; and

WHEREAS, beginning her journalism career in 1976 as a writer and reporter for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Nita Jones delighted readers with her regular "Dining out with Nita Jones" column, along with many other special features and articles in the business and trade sections; and

WHEREAS, a gifted writer and expert communicator, Nita Jones supported the public relations and communications departments of many companies throughout her career, including Signet Bank, St. Mary's Hospital, Johnston-Willis Hospital, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her accomplishments both as a journalist and public relations professional, Nita Jones received several awards from the International Association of Business Communicators, for which she was an active chapter member, as well as accolades from "The Ragan Report" and Virginia Press Women; and

WHEREAS, Nita Jones supported members of her community through her work with Meals on Wheels and was an unflagging advocate for social justice issues as an active member of the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, a tireless champion of LGBT causes, Nita Jones was an ardent supporter of Equality Virginia and a founding member of "Mothers and Others," a Richmond-based grassroots organization dedicated to ensuring equality for LGBT individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, guided throughout her life by her deep and abiding faith, Nita Jones was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, where she enjoyed worship and fellowship with her community for many years; and

WHEREAS, Nita Jones will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by her husband, Robert; her children, Robert, Jr., and Kimberly, and their families; 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 Nita Jones, who touched the lives of countless citizens of Richmond as a journalist, social activist, and friend; 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 Nita Jones as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

HJ358