

# 2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 538

*Commending Geraldine Bailey Williams Johnson.*

Agreed to by the Senate, September 10, 2020

WHEREAS, Geraldine Bailey Williams Johnson, a beloved member of the Richmond community for the past century, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, born in the Newtown neighborhood in South Richmond, Geraldine Johnson was a graduate of Dunbar Elementary School and Armstrong High School; and

WHEREAS, guided throughout her life by her deep and abiding faith, Geraldine Johnson was baptized by the Reverend William L. Ransome at the historic First Baptist Church of South Richmond, where seven generations of her family have been parishioners; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of the Van de Vyver Institute, where she majored in business, Geraldine Johnson later enrolled at Virginia Union University from 1960 to 1964, making the dean's list and earning a degree in elementary education; and

WHEREAS, for over a half-century, Geraldine Johnson has been a passionate and indefatigable supporter of her alma mater, generously supporting the growth and development of tomorrow's leaders; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine Johnson taught at Blackwell Elementary School in Richmond, helping untold children achieve success both in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine Johnson hails from an illustrious family of accomplished individuals; her grandfather, Frank L'Overture Williams, Sr., was a graduate of the historic Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and her uncle, Frederick Douglas Williams, was a distinguished veteran of World War I who was honored by Virginia Union University; and

WHEREAS, devoted to her family and Christian faith all her life, Geraldine Johnson has been an inspiration to all whom she has known over the past 100 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Geraldine Bailey Williams Johnson, an educator and model of integrity who touched countless lives in the Commonwealth, hereby be commended on the occasion of her centennial birthday; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Geraldine Bailey Williams Johnson as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's congratulations and best wishes.

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