

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 840

Celebrating the life of Valerie Best.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, August 10, 2021

WHEREAS, Valerie Best, author, publisher, and business owner and beloved member of the Hampton Roads community, died on February 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Best grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, where she was one of the first Black students to attend a previously all-White school in a city that was described as "ground zero for anti-bussing rage" following a 1974 court order requiring bussing of students to desegregate schools in the city; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in 1973, Valerie Best relocated to Virginia to attend the Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, where she was a member of the cheerleading team and where she met the love of her life and future husband, Tyrome; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Valerie Best graduated from Hampton Institute with a degree in early childhood education and, following a short stint teaching in local schools, became a flight attendant, a position that allowed her and Tyrome to travel the world; and

WHEREAS, upon becoming a mother in 1987, Valerie Best left the corporate world to work with her husband to grow their networking business; and

WHEREAS, over the next 33 years, as the co-founder of Wealth Builders Worldwide and the author and publisher of five books, Valerie Best was recognized as a speaker, leader, and trainer; and

WHEREAS, a lover of people and believer in the goodness of others despite the bigotry, prejudice, and racism she faced in life, Valerie Best believed in the importance of engaging with her community and actively participating in politics, government, and social causes, and she worked hard to build communities of likeminded people dedicated to improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Best will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband of 42 years, Tyrome; her sons, Alexander and Gabriel; and countless other family members, friends, and others throughout Newport News; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Valerie Best; 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 Valerie Best as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

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