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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 842

Offered February 20, 2023

Commending Orange Hunt Elementary School.

Patrons—Tran; Senator: Marsden

WHEREAS, Orange Hunt Elementary School was named a Purple Star School for the 2022-2023 school year for its commitment to excellence in supporting military-connected children and their families, and this was its second time receiving this designation; and

WHEREAS, located in West Springfield with easy access to the Pentagon and Fort Belvoir, Orange Hunt Elementary School is home to one of the largest military populations in Fairfax County, and the school has a military family life counselor working with the active-duty student population; and

WHEREAS, Orange Hunt Elementary School produces meaningful opportunities for students to learn at the highest levels and acquire the tools they need to achieve success in and out of the classroom; the faculty and staff work with parents and local community partners to empower the students to become independent problem solvers, critical and creative thinkers, and empathetic, responsible members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Star School designation is presented by the Department of Education and the Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; for the current academic year, Orange Hunt Elementary School was one of 189 schools in the Commonwealth, and one of 40 schools in Fairfax County, to receive the designation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children have been participating in the Purple Star School program since 2018; Purple Star Schools retain the designation for three years before being required to reapply; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for the Purple Star School designation, Orange Hunt Elementary School has cultivated a military-friendly atmosphere and provides peer transition teams for incoming and outgoing students, as well as helpful resources and programming on issues important to military families; and

WHEREAS, as part of its qualification, Orange Hunt Elementary School maintains a trained staff point of contact as a primary link between military families and the school; the point of contact also conducts professional development sessions regarding special considerations for military students and their families; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the sometimes transient nature of military postings, Orange Hunt Elementary School maintains informational resources on the arrival of new students, records requests and transfer assistance for outgoing students, and long-term academic planning; and

WHEREAS, Orange Hunt Elementary School has a student-led transition program, which includes a student transition team coordinator, to provide peer support for both newly enrolled and withdrawing students; and

WHEREAS, Orange Hunt Elementary School also provides information on specialized subjects like special education, parental rights, parent-teacher associations, extracurricular activities, local community supports, and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Orange Hunt Elementary School on its selection as a Purple Star School for the 2022-2023 academic year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Orange Hunt Elementary School as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the school's outstanding contributions to young people and support for military families in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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