

1995 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 680

Offered January 23, 1995

Commending Mary Johnson.

Patrons—Christian, Behm and Crittenden; Senators: Andrews and Maxwell

WHEREAS, on Christmas Day, 1994, Mary Johnson of Hampton had two additional reasons to celebrate — first, it was her birthday, and second, she was named Citizen of the Year by the Daily Press; and

WHEREAS, a retired educator, Mary Johnson was selected as Citizen of the Year from among 40 nominees for the annual award that recognizes a person who demonstrates the highest values of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Mary Johnson was recognized for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Newtown neighborhood, in the Southampton section of Hampton; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, with a master's degree from Boston University, Mary Johnson retired in 1979 as principal of Langley Elementary School after a career in education that spanned over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, serving as a catalyst for her Newtown neighborhood, Mary Johnson has been instrumental in the revitalization of the community, serving as president of the Newtown Improvement and Civic Club; leading the effort to raise over \$175,000 to restore the Little England Chapel, a neighborhood landmark and meeting place; and working to organize a foundation to ensure the preservation of the historic chapel; and

WHEREAS, Mary Johnson also uses her long experience in education to help the young people of her community, working assiduously and effectively to involve the community more closely in the education of its youth and creating and strengthening ties between the schools and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, working at the local, grass-roots level, Mary Johnson has been remarkably and consistently effective in bringing about change in her community, and her Citizen of the Year Award is both appropriate and well-earned; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly join with the citizens of Hampton in honoring Mary Johnson's unique and lasting contributions to her community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mary Johnson as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and gratitude for her singular dedication to the betterment of the Hampton community.

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