

# 1996 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

*On the death of Mary Thomas Carswell.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 19, 1996  
Agreed to by the Senate, January 25, 1996

WHEREAS, Mary Thomas Carswell, who spearheaded the effort to create Virginia's only sizable all-volunteer library, died on November 17, 1995; and

WHEREAS, a resident of New Kent County since 1977, Mary Thomas Carswell was one of the prime movers behind the establishment of the Heritage Free Public Library in Providence Forge, which is operated entirely by volunteers; and

WHEREAS, long interested in increasing literacy among youth and adults, Mary Thomas Carswell devoted many hours to volunteer work with the Bi-County Literacy Council (New Kent and Charles City Counties) and with The Reading Place, a tutoring service that teaches adults to read; and

WHEREAS, Mary Thomas Carswell was a member of the Providence Forge Volunteer Rescue Squad and worked with the Capital Area Agency on Aging; and

WHEREAS, her seemingly inexhaustible energy and effectiveness as a volunteer won Mary Thomas Carswell awards and recognition, including a Community Service Award from the Richmond Times Dispatch; and

WHEREAS, Mary Thomas Carswell was recognized with a Governor's Excellence in Volunteering Award and with the Jeannie P. Baliles Award in Literacy, the highest honor bestowed by the Virginia Literacy Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mary Thomas Carswell leaves a lasting legacy of selfless service to the New Kent and Charles City communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a dedicated and effective volunteer, Mary Thomas Carswell; 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 Mary Thomas Carswell as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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