

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 324

Offered January 26, 1998

Commending James Farmer.

Patrons—Baskerville, Abbitt, Almand, Barlow, Behm, Bennett, Blevins, Bloxom, Brink, Bryant, Byron, Cantor, Christian, Councill, Cranwell, Crittenden, Croshaw, Darner, Davies, Davis, Deeds, Diamonstein, Dillard, Drake, Dudley, Grayson, Griffith, Hall, Harris, Hull, Jackson, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Jones, S.C., Katzen, Keating, Kilgore, Landes, May, McClure, McDonnell, McEachin, McQuigg, Melvin, Moran, Morgan, Moss, Puller, Reid, Rhodes, Robinson, Rollison, Ruff, Scott, Sherwood, Shuler, Spruill, Stump, Tata, Thomas, Van Landingham, Wagner, Wardrup, Ware, Watts, Weatherholtz and Williams

WHEREAS, James Farmer, one of the most prominent American civil rights leaders, has been named a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award; and

WHEREAS, the founder and former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), James Farmer was among the top rank of civil rights leaders during the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, with Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Whitney Young of the National Urban League, James Farmer of CORE was one of the "Big Four" of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the first national director of CORE, James Farmer attracted national attention when he led the Freedom Rides into the South, which were instrumental in ending segregation in public facilities; and

WHEREAS, a proponent of non-violent resistance against segregation and discrimination, James Farmer led sit-ins, standing lines, and other non-violent protests, which on occasion landed him in jail with his supporters; and

WHEREAS, now a resident of Spotsylvania and a Distinguished College Professor of History and American Studies at Mary Washington College, James Farmer is the author of Freedom — When? and his award-winning autobiography, Lay Bare the Heart; and

WHEREAS, James Farmer's Freedom Medal citation, presented on January 15, 1998, praises "one of our nation's most influential civil rights leaders" who "formed the Congress of Racial Equality, which became a catalyst of the civil rights movement"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend James Farmer on his well-earned and richly deserved selection as a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly join with James Farmer's friends, colleagues, and millions of supporters in celebrating his life of great influence and achievement; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to James Farmer as an expression of the General Assembly's great admiration for his lifetime commitment to civil rights, racial equality, and equal justice.

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