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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 476

Offered January 30, 2001

On the death of Elizabeth Speer Hartwell.

Patron—Puller

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Speer Hartwell, a noted Northern Virginia environmentalist and a fierce defender of the natural beauty of the Mason Neck peninsula in southern Fairfax County, died on December 14, 2000; and

WHEREAS, a native of Danville, Elizabeth Hartwell moved to Washington, D.C., during World War II and later settled in the Mason Neck area with her husband; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, hearing of plans to turn Mason Neck into a satellite city of 20,000 people, Elizabeth Hartwell began her career as environmentalist and protector of the wildlife and landscape of Mason Neck; and

WHEREAS, between 1965 and 1983, Elizabeth Hartwell was instrumental in defeating plans to turn Mason Neck into deep-sea port, part of an outer beltway, an Army aerosol spraying experimental tower, a military airport, a landfill for District of Columbia garbage, and a natural gas pipeline, among others; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hartwell was successful in her efforts to save Mason Neck, due largely to her commitment and her seemingly inexhaustible energy; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hartwell wrote thousands of letters, placed countless phone calls, gave speeches, attended hearings, organized a watchdog group called the Conservation Committee for Mason Neck, and alerted environmental organizations to the planned depredations of would-be developers of Mason Neck; and

WHEREAS, often mocked by her opponents and vilified by those whose plans she foiled, Elizabeth Hartwell emerged as a hero when her efforts led to the establishment of the Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge, the Mason Neck State Park, and the Pohick Bay Regional Park, which together protect more than 5,000 acres from development; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hartwell later served on the Northern Virginia Potomac River Basin Commission, the Fairfax County Wetlands Board, the Virginia Board of Agriculture, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority; and

WHEREAS, due to the efforts of Elizabeth Hartwell, most of Mason Neck is today the same as it was 35 years ago, and the region's natural beauty and abundant wildlife form Elizabeth Hartwell's most lasting and valuable legacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of an extraordinary Virginian, Elizabeth Speer Hartwell; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Elizabeth Speer Hartwell as an expression of the respect in which her memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

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