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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 458

Offered March 1, 2002

*Commending Dorothy Bigelow Hamm.*

Patrons—Darner, Almand, Baskerville, Brink, Christian, Crittenden, Jones, J.C., Plum and Van  
Landingham; Senators: Ticer and Whipple

WHEREAS, Dorothy Bigelow Hamm, a retired government administrator and former teacher, has for  
nearly 50 years been a leading figure in the civil rights movement in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a native of Caroline County, Dorothy Hamm resided in Fairfax and Arlington for many  
years, where she became a prominent civil rights figure beginning in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Hamm was a plaintiff in five landmark court decisions affecting civil rights in  
the Commonwealth including the 1956 decision that ended segregation in the Arlington public schools;  
and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Hamm was also a plaintiff in the cases that eliminated the pupil placement  
form, desegregated all athletics in the Arlington public schools, desegregated theaters in Arlington, and  
eliminated the poll tax; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the court suits, Dorothy Hamm helped to organize and march with  
Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) groups that picketed for equality in employment, housing, eating  
facilities, and hospital room assignments; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Hamm was involved in politics and elections for many years, serving as a  
delegate to Arlington County and state conventions in 1964 and working as an Arlington County  
assistant registrar and as chief election officer in the Woodlawn precinct; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Hamm has made her voice heard through her plays and poetry, writing and  
choreographing "Our Heritage: Slavery to Freedom, 1776—1976," which was designated an official  
bicentennial event by Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Hamm wrote and produced "Our Struggle for Equality—25 Years Ago," which  
was shown on Arlington cable television and is currently televised annually during Black History  
Month; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her talents and her lifelong dedication to civil rights, Dorothy Hamm  
has been honored by Alpha Phi Alpha, the Arlington Electoral Board, and Arlington County; now,  
therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly  
commend Dorothy Bigelow Hamm for her lifetime achievements and her exemplary dedication to the  
cause of equal rights for all Virginians; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
for presentation to Dorothy Bigelow Hamm as an expression of the admiration and best wishes of the  
members of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED

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