

2006 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 495

Offered March 6, 2006

Commending Wakefield Forest Elementary School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patrons—Watts; Senator: Saslaw

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest Elementary School, one of Fairfax County's finest elementary schools, celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 1955 the school opened with eight classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, and 209 students, and by adding a two-story east wing and a pod completed in 1968, Wakefield Forest Elementary School has grown to accommodate the 460 students who attend today; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest Elementary School, a community school in character and attitude, took its name from Wakefield Chapel Road which is named in honor of the Wakefield Chapel built in 1899 and named after the Reverend E. W. Wakefield, first minister of the chapel; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest offers before- and after-school foreign language courses, Odyssey of the Mind, basketball "Hoops" clinics, Reflections program, and an active Writers Club as well as superior academics; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest Elementary School is especially proud of the "Kids with Character" program that integrates character lessons into daily school experiences and focuses on themes including respect, acceptance, responsibility, kindness, and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest Elementary School has a wonderful elective program for fifth and sixth graders that allows students to sample classes that they may choose in middle school, such as art, team sports, Spanish, French, newspaper publication, modern dance, first aid, test-taking skills, and chorus; and

WHEREAS, technology is an emphasis in all classrooms, and the Courtyard Habitat, which allows for hands-on-learning and observation of plants and animals in a natural setting, informational coffees with the principal, and Colonial Day also make Wakefield Forest Elementary School special; and

WHEREAS, Wakefield Forest Elementary School strives to encourage each student to reach their potential, to think critically and creatively, to value and respect individual differences, and to succeed in an ever-changing society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Wakefield Forest Elementary School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Sheri D'Amato, principal of Wakefield Forest Elementary School, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for continued academic success.

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