

2006 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled December 22, 2005

Celebrating the life of Richard Arnold Wilson.

Patron—Miller

WHEREAS, Richard Arnold Wilson of Chesapeake, a dedicated educator and pre-kindergarten teacher at Westhaven Elementary School, died after a year-long illness on July 9, 2005, at the age of 42; and

WHEREAS, born on June 20, 1963, in Jackson, Mississippi, Richard Wilson and his family moved to Norfolk in 1975, when his father, Harrison B. Wilson, Jr., became president of Norfolk State University; and

WHEREAS, Richard Wilson attended St. Mary's Academy in Norfolk, graduated from Wilbraham and Monson Academy in Massachusetts, attended Dartmouth College, and received a bachelor's degree from Norfolk State University; and

WHEREAS, Richard Wilson was previously experienced in the teaching of fourth graders, but when he came to Westhaven Elementary School in Portsmouth in 1997, he was promptly enlisted by the principal, Dr. Helen Taylor, to be their pre-kindergarten teacher, a rare position for a male teacher; and

WHEREAS, Richard Wilson knew he was destined to be a teacher at a very young age, often playing school as a child with his siblings and friends; he naturally embraced the challenge of teaching four-year-olds, and his young pre-kindergarteners flourished in his loving and expert care; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate and gentle man, Richard Wilson will be fondly remembered as a gifted educator and sorely missed by his family, his students and fellow teachers, his many friends, and the congregation of St. John's AME Church on Bute Street; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of an excellent teacher and outstanding Virginian, Richard Arnold Wilson; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Richard Arnold Wilson as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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