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Offered June 6, 2006

Commending James Blair Middle School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

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Patrons—Norment; Delegates: Barlow, Hamilton and Rapp

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5034

WHEREAS, James Blair Middle School of the Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2006; and

WHEREAS, James Blair School was named for the Reverend James Blair, who was granted a charter to establish The College of William and Mary by King William III and Queen Mary II in 1693; he was the founder of the prestigious college and served as its president until his death in 1743; and

WHEREAS, the cornerstone for James Blair School was set in 1954, the institution first opened its doors as a high school in the 1955-1956 school year, and the first class of students graduated in 1956; and

WHEREAS, James Blair School became a junior high school in 1974 and was converted to a middle school in 1989; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, James Blair School has continued to serve the community of Williamsburg as a middle school, providing unique educational opportunities to its over 600 students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades; and

WHEREAS, the faculty, staff, and administration of James Blair Middle School is dedicated to helping students master the academics, as well as explore areas of learning beyond core subjects, including innovative approaches to art, computer lab, foreign languages, music, physical education, technology, and family studies; and

WHEREAS, 2006 marks the Golden Jubilee of James Blair School, which has continually provided an invaluable and exemplary educational resource for the young people of Williamsburg; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate James Blair Middle School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Gary S. Mathews, Superintendent of the Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of James Blair Middle School's commitment to education and best wishes for its continued success.