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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 633

Offered January 8, 2007

*Commending Evelyn Thompson Lawrence.*

Patron—Carrico

WHEREAS, Evelyn Thompson Lawrence of Marion, a respected citizen and educator in Smyth County for many years, is recognized for her outstanding service to her community; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Thompson was born in Marion, Virginia, the daughter of Susie and John Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence attended Carnegie High School in Marion and Gary High School in West Virginia, and received a bachelor's degree in music and English from West Virginia State College and a master's degree in music from the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, an excellent student, Evelyn Lawrence also demonstrated a propensity for writing, composing, and performing throughout her school years, and as she matured, she proved to be a gifted communicator and leader; and

WHEREAS, after college, Evelyn Lawrence began her career in education for the Smyth County Public Schools, teaching at Carnegie High School until 1965, then at Marion Primary School until she retired in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence is an accomplished musician, and from 1941 until 1960, she shared her knowledge and great love of music with her private piano students; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence is a faithful member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Marion, where she is the respected choir director and organist and an active participant and leader in the church's many missions in the community; and

WHEREAS, over the years, one of Evelyn Lawrence's most rewarding roles has been her service to the community, providing beautiful music for its residents in happy times, as well as sad, and she is well-known as a composer and producer of children's operettas and plays; and

WHEREAS, committed to improving the quality of life of her neighbors, Evelyn Lawrence has given her time and immense talents to numerous civic and professional organizations, serving as a board member of the Smyth County Community Hospital, chair of the Cultural Relations Committee of the Smyth County chapter of the American Association of University Women, and a member of the Blue Ridge Job Corps Community Relations Council and the Alpha Kappa Alpha and Alpha Delta Kappa sororities; and

WHEREAS, a great supporter of justice for all of her fellow citizens, Evelyn Lawrence has served as a juror for the United States District Court at Abingdon since 1950; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Lawrence was chosen by the Marion Rotary Club as 1985 Citizen of the Year and served as the parade marshal in the Marion Christmas Parade in 1994; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Evelyn Thompson Lawrence for her outstanding service to her community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Evelyn Thompson Lawrence as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for her many achievements.