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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 929

Offered February 18, 2011

*Celebrating the life of Betty Harrington Macdonald.*

Patrons—Englin, Ebbin and Herring

WHEREAS, Betty Harrington Macdonald, a noted artist and historian from Alexandria, died on February 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dover, Delaware, Betty Macdonald was the daughter of William Watson Harrington and Sarah Godwin Harrington and beloved sister to Sarah and Nancy; and

WHEREAS, Betty Macdonald's love of painting began at an early age and she nurtured her talent through study at the Holmquist School, the Philadelphia School of Design for Women (Moore College of Art), and finally Sarah Lawrence College; and

WHEREAS, after completing her formal education, Betty Macdonald studied with the well-known artist and illustrator, Harvey Dunn, at the Grand Central School of Art in New York, where she continued to hone her skills; and

WHEREAS, an early member of the Rehoboth Art League, Betty Macdonald quickly developed a reputation as a fine watercolor painter, later showing her work at the Annual Art Exhibitions in Rehoboth Beach, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts (Delaware Art Museum); and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Sewell C. Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover honored Betty Macdonald with a retrospective exhibit (and essay) titled "Painting Ever Since She Can Remember"; and

WHEREAS, Betty Macdonald's skillful rendering of historic sites and buildings later became books when the Delaware State Society of the Daughters of American Colonists published *Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore* in 1963 and in 1976; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Betty Macdonald nourished another passion, history, that was strongly influenced by both her family and residence in historic Old Town Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Betty Macdonald wrote an essay entitled "The Port of Alexandria" as part of a book entitled *Alexandria: A Composite History* which the Alexandria Bicentennial Commission published in 1975, while in 1990, the Milford Historical Society published her book, *Misphillion-Built Sailing Vessels, 1761-1917*; and

WHEREAS, Betty Macdonald was a remarkably talented woman whose artistic work reflected her view of the landscapes around her, pleasing and engaging her audiences, while her research and documentation of maritime history informed many of unknown stories and facts from the past; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by her beloved husband of 50 years, Captain W.R. Macdonald, Betty Macdonald will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her son, Andrew; stepson, Charles; granddaughters Lisa and Julia; and many friends and admirers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a noted artist and historian, Betty Harrington Macdonald; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Betty Harrington Macdonald as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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