

2011 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5048

Offered June 9, 2011

Celebrating the life of Alma Bryant Fortson.

Patron—Surovell

Unanimous consent to introduce

WHEREAS, Alma Bryant Fortson, a former guidance counselor at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria who guided countless youth as they embarked on their adult lives and made many contributions to her community, died on March 25, 2011, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Alma Fortson was a native of Norfolk, the daughter of a Pullman Porter, and the third of five children raised in a family dedicated to a belief in God, education, and community service; and

WHEREAS Alma Fortson received a bachelor's degree from Hampton Institute and a master's degree from the Teachers College of Columbia University, New York; and

WHEREAS, Alma Fortson returned to her hometown and taught home economics for Norfolk Public Schools starting in 1949 before becoming a guidance counselor at T.C. Williams High School, in Alexandria, Virginia, where she spent most of her distinguished career until her retirement in 1979; and

WHEREAS, possessed of a positive and "can do" spirit, Alma Fortson provided valuable encouragement and inspiration to students as they made decisions about their futures; and

WHEREAS, Alma Fortson worked closely with young adults and emphasized the importance of higher education and setting goals so that they could achieve their potential in all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, committed to serving others, Alma Fortson was a proud member of the Northern Virginia Urban League Guild, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Black Women United for Action serving as a mentor and benefactor for many of the Chantilly Mews Housing families and received numerous awards for her community service from the Fairfax chapter of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Alma Fortson nurtured her faith and enjoyed fellowship and service through her membership at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church and St. Theresa's Guild; and

WHEREAS, Alma Fortson's influence extended far and wide through the lives of her students and those other members of her community whom she served throughout the course of her long and productive life; and

WHEREAS, a gracious and loving woman, Alma Fortson will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband of 49 years, Leon; son, Melvin; and numerous other family members and friends; 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 an inspiring educator and community supporter, Alma Bryant Fortson; 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 Alma Bryant Fortson as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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