

2011 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 506

Offered April 6, 2011

Celebrating the life of Mary Jean Grider Spangenthal.

Patron—Carr

Unanimous consent to introduce

WHEREAS, Mary Jean Grider Spangenthal of Richmond, an influential advocate of child development and education, died on March 3, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pennsylvania, Mary Jean "Peg" Spangenthal received a bachelor's degree from Moravian College and a master's degree from New York University before relocating to Richmond in 1961; and

WHEREAS, a caring and compassionate woman, Peg Spangenthal served as the first director of Grace House, a neighborhood settlement house, where she helped families and individuals in need; and

WHEREAS, as the first director of the Sabot School, Peg Spangenthal drew upon the teachings of Swiss psychologist and philosopher Jean Piaget in developing an educational approach where children are actively involved in what and how they learn; and

WHEREAS, during her 12-year tenure at the Sabot School, Peg Spangenthal worked diligently to create a positive, creative, and supportive learning environment where students could grow and develop; and

WHEREAS, Peg Spangenthal continued to positively impact the lives of children through her work as director of the Commonwealth Parenting Center and as a child development specialist at Memorial Child Guidance Clinic; and

WHEREAS, a gifted educator, Peg Spangenthal shared her experience and expertise with rising generations of educators as an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College; and

WHEREAS, a well-known authority on child development and education, Peg Spangenthal was appointed by Governor Gerald Baliles as the first chair of the Child Day Care Council; she was reappointed by Governor L. Douglas Wilder; and

WHEREAS, Peg Spangenthal received numerous awards and accolades throughout her life for her distinguished contributions, including recognition as one of the Richmond YWCA Ten Outstanding Women for 1989 and a 2007 Commonwealth of Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Peg Spangenthal devoted her life to the education and development of children, profoundly influencing future generations and creating a living legacy; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by her husband Arthur, Peg Spangenthal will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her children, David and Peter and their families, including three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of a dedicated advocate for children, Mary Jean Grider Spangenthal; 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 Mary Jean Grider Spangenthal as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

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