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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 177

Offered January 13, 2012

*Celebrating the life of Augustine Bellamy.*

Patrons—Bell, Richard P. and Landes

WHEREAS, Augustine Bellamy, a noted civil rights leader from Waynesboro who helped preserve and celebrate black history, died on May 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Waynesboro, Augustine Bellamy had a deep appreciation and understanding of the rich heritage and contributions of African Americans to the area that she was passionate about sharing; and

WHEREAS, Augustine Bellamy possessed a natural ability to share stories and information in an engaging manner; stories about the great figures in black history made her a favorite at local schools; and

WHEREAS, Augustine Bellamy also worked alongside city officials to create an official citywide observance of Black History Month, which continues to provide an opportunity for remembrance and celebration today; and

WHEREAS, a woman of vision, Augustine Bellamy realized the importance of creating a permanent facility where relevant artifacts could be gathered and displayed for the enjoyment and edification of all; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Augustine Bellamy's tireless efforts, Waynesboro's African-American Heritage Museum was opened to great fanfare and continues to educate local residents and area visitors about black history; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Augustine Bellamy drew upon her deep faith, which she nurtured through worship and service at Waynesboro's Union Baptist Church, as she fought for equality for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Waynesboro Branch of the NAACP honored Augustine Bellamy for her enormous contributions and efforts toward civil rights with a special plaque in 2010; and

WHEREAS, an exceptionally compassionate and wise woman, Augustine Bellamy took great joy in spending time with her family and friends and lived to see a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a truly remarkable woman, Augustine Bellamy and her efforts will become part of the rich history and legacy that she worked to preserve and maintain; 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 respected citizen of the Commonwealth, Augustine Bellamy; 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 Augustine Bellamy as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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