

## 2012 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 275

*Commending W.T. Woodson High School.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 3, 2012

Agreed to by the Senate, February 9, 2012

WHEREAS, with the opening of W.T. Woodson High School in the fall of 1962, the students and staff at the Fairfax County school, led by its principal, Emory Chelsey, established a tradition of academic excellence, competitive spirit, and school pride; and

WHEREAS, the school is named for Wilbert Tucker Woodson, who served as superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools from 1929 to 1961; until his death in 1983, Mr. Woodson frequently visited his school to attend activities; and

WHEREAS, W.T. Woodson High School was built on the site of a dairy farm, and at 79 acres, the school is still the largest in Fairfax County and boasts a full planetarium of both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres; and

WHEREAS, the athletic facilities at W.T. Woodson High School in 1962 included a 5,000-seat stadium, softball fields, baseball fields, a hockey field, and 10 tennis courts; the stadium has since been expanded to 15,000 seats, and a community fundraising drive paid for stadium lighting; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated principals who have led W.T. Woodson High School in the last 50 years have continued to pursue academic excellence; the school's graduates include an astronaut, a professional football player, an Olympic athlete, a television actor, and an assistant superintendent for the Fairfax County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, in academics, the school has been cited for the large number of National Merit Scholars among its student population; in the 1970s the Latin team from W.T. Woodson High School achieved national prominence and its sponsor, future First Lady Maureen O'Donnell, was named Teacher of the Year in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the competitive spirit at W.T. Woodson High School remains strong as the Cavaliers have won state championships in many sports, and the school has received the *Washington Post* Athletic All-Around (all sports) award; and

WHEREAS, music has had a vital role at W.T. Woodson High School; the music department showcases the talents of its students in plays, choral productions, and other performances; the Cavalier band also has won top honors in national competitions; and

WHEREAS, the W.T. Woodson High School campus is one of the most fully utilized educational facilities in Fairfax County as adult education classes and night school programs meet there; the school also is home to centers for the deaf and hard-of-hearing and for students with emotional disabilities; and

WHEREAS, as the W.T. Woodson Cavaliers celebrate their 50th anniversary, its students, staff, and alumni are proud to continue the school traditions of academic excellence, competitive spirit, and school pride; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend W.T. Woodson High School on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jeff Yost, principal of W.T. Woodson High School, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the school's many years of providing a quality education to the young people of Fairfax County.

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