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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 143

Offered February 13, 2014

Commending Melissa A. Porfirio.

Patrons—Lucas, Alexander, Barker, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Garrett, Howell, Locke, Marsh, McEachin, Newman, Norment, Puckett, Puller, Ruff, Saslaw, Stuart, Vogel, Wagner and Wexton; Delegates: Davis, Filler-Corn, Futrell, Helsel, Hester, Hope, Keam, Kory, Krupicka, Landes, Lopez, Loupassi, McQuinn, Minchew, Morris, Morrissey, Plum, Rasoul, Rust, Simon, Spruill, Surovell, Toscano, Tyler, Ware and Watts

WHEREAS, Melissa A. Porfirio, who teaches first grade at Crestwood Elementary School in Fairfax County, is the 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for the 2014 National Teacher of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year designation, which is given annually by the Virginia Department of Education, was awarded to Melissa Porfirio in October 2013 by Patricia I. Wright, superintendent of public instruction; the winner of the 2014 national award will be announced in April; and

WHEREAS, described as the heart of the Crestwood community by colleagues, Melissa Porfirio has taught at the Springfield school for eight years; she also has been a social worker in North Carolina and Washington, D.C., and earlier taught English in South Korea; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Porfirio's commitment to education includes serving as a mentor for new teachers and appearing in training videos for the school system; she also uses her free time to build relationships with the families of her students, and enjoys attending the pupils' after-school activities; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Porfirio is the team leader for the first grade teachers at Crestwood Elementary School; she works closely with her colleagues to ensure that each child's individual needs are met and that they are prepared for second grade; and

WHEREAS, in the classroom, Melissa Porfirio focuses on community building; together with her students, she sets rules and procedures, creating an environment that is safe and welcoming, builds confidence, enhances individual strengths, encourages risk-taking, and promotes the infinite possibilities that come through learning; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Catholic University, Melissa Porfirio received a master's degree from George Mason University; during her years at Crestwood Elementary School, she has been an inspiration to her students and to many other people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Fairfax County teacher Melissa A. Porfirio for being named the 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for the 2014 National Teacher of the Year award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Melissa A. Porfirio as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for her commitment to her students and for being an outstanding role model for all people in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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