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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 809

Offered February 12, 2015

Commending Patrick Henry Elementary School.

Patrons—Lopez, Hope, Krupicka and Sullivan; Senators: Ebbin, Favola, Howell and Saslaw

WHEREAS, Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington County celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2015; the school offers pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and has an economically and ethnically diverse student body; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Henry Elementary School's roots extend to Arlington County's early days of public education; when the school was established in 1925, it replaced the county's first public educational institution, Columbia School; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Patrick Henry also became the first racially integrated elementary school in Arlington County, and today the school is proud of its diverse student body—embracing the students' contributions and varied outlooks; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Patrick Henry Elementary School is to continuously improve student achievement by maintaining high expectations for all students in the areas of academic and physical development as well as personal and interpersonal behaviors; and

WHEREAS, today, Patrick Henry Elementary School has 519 students, many of whose families are from other countries; almost 30 percent of the pupils speak English as a second language; the Title I school also is home to Arlington County's deaf/hard of hearing and communications programs; and

WHEREAS, the Patrick Henry Elementary School community is proud of the pupils' steady academic achievement; students consistently exceed state and federal benchmarks in English and math; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Patrick Henry Elementary School received the Distinguished Title I School award for exceptional academic achievement on the Standards of Learning assessments; in 2014, the school was honored as one of four Highly Distinguished Title I Schools in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Henry Elementary School was selected as the one school in the Commonwealth to receive the National Title I award in the category of exceeding all federal annual measurable objectives in reading and mathematics for two consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, the students and staff at Patrick Henry Elementary School also have fun; the principal and assistant principal recently spent an entire day on the roof, fulfilling a promise they made if the pupils met a significant reading goal; the students had great fun watching from the ground as the administrators celebrated their charges' accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington County on the occasion of its 90th anniversary in 2015 and for its outstanding academic program that successfully serves an economically and ethnically diverse student body; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Annie Frye, principal of Patrick Henry Elementary School, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for its long history of providing an excellent education to boys and girls in Arlington County and best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCED

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