

# 2018 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 600

Offered May 18, 2018

*Commending the Rock Hill Elementary School and HeartFields Book Buddy program.*

Patron—Thomas

WHEREAS, for nearly two decades, the Rock Hill Elementary School and HeartFields Book Buddy program has given students and seniors opportunities to share in the joys of reading; and

WHEREAS, the Book Buddy program was established in 1999 by two Rock Hill Elementary School teachers—Beth Halterman and the late Jill McInnis—who were seeking to enrich the learning process for their students; and

WHEREAS, each year, second-grade students at Rock Hill Elementary School are matched with a Book Buddy at the HeartFields assisted living center in Stafford; students write a letter of introduction and set a calendar of nine visits to spend reading together; and

WHEREAS, through the Book Buddy program, Rock Hill Elementary School students practice reading, develop important life skills, and gain an appreciation for the value of community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Book Buddy program also provides seniors, some of whom are former teachers or school administrators, with the opportunity to share their wisdom with students and help them build a strong foundation for lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the Book Buddy program has fulfilled its mission with the support of the local Rotary Club and several education foundations, as well as a partnership with the Bowen Group in Stafford; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Rock Hill Elementary School and HeartFields Book Buddy program hereby be commended on the occasion of its 20th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Rock Hill Elementary School and HeartFields Book Buddy program as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the success of this unique program, which benefits youths and seniors alike.

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