

# 2018 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

18200200D

1                   **SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 531**

2                   Offered May 21, 2018

3                   *Celebrating the life of Helen Winfree Peyton Wallace.*

4                   \_\_\_\_\_  
5                   Patron—McClellan

6                   WHEREAS, Helen Winfree Peyton Wallace, a passionate educator who was one of the first teachers  
7                   to integrate Westhampton Elementary School, died on May 1, 2018; and

8                   WHEREAS, a native of New York, Helen Wallace moved to the Commonwealth with her family at  
9                   a young age; graduated from Armstrong High School and was first in her class at Virginia Union  
10                  University, then began her career in education as a teacher in segregated elementary schools; and

11                  WHEREAS, in 1965, Helen Wallace was hand-selected to teach at Westhampton Elementary School,  
12                  becoming one of the first African American teachers to instruct white students; shortly thereafter she  
13                  became the first African American president of what is now the Richmond Education Association; and

14                  WHEREAS, after earning a master's degree from Northwestern University, Helen Wallace served as  
15                  a reading specialist for Richmond Public Schools, focusing on students with disabilities and Title I  
16                  students; her model remedial reading program helped countless elementary school students throughout  
17                  Richmond overcome challenges with literacy; and

18                  WHEREAS, Helen Wallace also created the Book Bowl, which promoted literacy by encouraging  
19                  students to read their own books to audiences, and a children's tour program that provided exciting trips  
20                  and opportunities to students; and

21                  WHEREAS, Helen Wallace retired as a reading specialist in 1993, after 44 years of service to  
22                  Richmond Public Schools; she was also a respected realtor with more than 30 years of experience  
23                  selling property; and

24                  WHEREAS, Helen Wallace volunteered her time and leadership as an election official in Henrico  
25                  County, a member of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a life member of the  
26                  NAACP, and a founder and former president of the Richmond Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc.,  
27                  which works on behalf of underprivileged children; and

28                  WHEREAS, guided by her faith throughout her life, Helen Wallace was a devout Catholic who  
29                  enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as an active member of St. Paul Catholic Church;  
30                  and

31                  WHEREAS, Helen Wallace will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her son, Walter, and  
32                  his family; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

33                  RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Helen Winfree  
34                  Peyton Wallace, a pioneering educator and a highly admired member of the Richmond community; and,  
35                  be it

36                  RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for  
37                  presentation to the family of Helen Winfree Peyton Wallace as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's  
38                  respect for her memory.

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