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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 275

Offered February 1, 2021

1 3 Commemorating the life and legacy of Moses Grandy.

2 4 Patrons—Hayes, Jones, Adams, D.M., Carr, Cole, M.L., Delaney, Heretick, Hope, Kory, Levine,
McQuinn, Rasoul, Reid, Scott, Simonds and Ware5 6 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy, an entrepreneur, author, and abolitionist, was born enslaved in Camden
County, North Carolina, in 1786; and8 9 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy cut timber and operated boats along the Dismal Swamp Canal, a historic
landmark and a site on the Chesapeake African American Heritage Trail; and10 11 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy became highly skilled at navigating boats along the canal and was
allowed to keep a portion of his earnings for bringing white merchants' goods into Norfolk and
Portsmouth; and12 13 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy saved enough money to buy his own freedom but had his savings stolen
twice by his masters; his third attempt was successful, and he relocated to Boston to avoid capture and
further enslavement; and14 15 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy went on to buy the freedom of his wife and other relatives, and one of
his descendants estimated that he had spent approximately \$3,000 to free his family from bondage, the
equivalent of tens of thousands of dollars today; and16 17 WHEREAS, Moses Grandy published his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy;*
Late a Slave in the United States of America, galvanizing other abolitionists through his courage,
determination, and intellect and enlightening people of many backgrounds about the evils of slavery; and18 19 WHEREAS, in 2006, a portion of Virginia State Route 165, running west from Dominion Boulevard
in Chesapeake toward the Dismal Swamp Canal, was renamed as the Moses Grandy Trail in his honor;
and20 21 WHEREAS, generations of Moses Grandy's family have carried on his inspirational legacy, with
many of them still residing in southeastern Virginia; now, therefore, be it22 23 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the life and legacy of Moses Grandy hereby be
commemorated on the occasion of the 235th anniversary of his birth; and, be it24 25 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
for presentation to family members of Moses Grandy as an expression of the House of Delegates'
admiration for his contributions to the history and heritage of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HR275