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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 830

Offered February 20, 2023

*Commending Kwame Alexander.*

Patrons—Hayes; Senators: Boysko and Spruill

WHEREAS, Kwame Alexander, an award-winning children's author, poet, and educator, recently produced a television series, *The Crossover*, based on his Newbery Medal-winning novel-in-verse of the same name, which premieres on the Disney Channel and the Disney+ streaming service in April 2023; and

WHEREAS, Kwame Alexander is a Chesapeake native, a seventh-generation Virginian, and the descendant of an African American patriot and hero who served with the Union Army during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Kwame Alexander is a best-selling author of more than 35 books, which have earned him numerous awards over the years, including the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, a Coretta Scott King Award honor book mention, three NAACP Image Award nominations, and the inaugural Conroy Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, Kwame Alexander produced *The Crossover* television series, a coming-of-age drama that centers around teen brothers and basketball phenoms Josh and Jordan Bell as they grow and mature both on and off the court, alongside basketball superstar LeBron James; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Kwame Alexander launched Versify, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, to champion a diverse array of unconventional authors and stories deserving of wider readership; and

WHEREAS, Kwame Alexander's other recent endeavors include a John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts-commissioned national tour of his children's musical *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume* and the founding of the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic in Ghana in 2018 as a part of his Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty for Ghana international literacy program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Kwame Alexander for his eagerly awaited television series *The Crossover* and for his many other initiatives to promote literacy and empower young readers and writers; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kwame Alexander as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his achievements and for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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