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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 844

Offered February 20, 2023

Commending Washington Irving Middle School.

Patrons—Tran; Senator: Saslaw

WHEREAS, Washington Irving Middle School was named a Purple Star School for the 2022-2023 school year for its commitment to excellence in supporting military-connected children and their families; and

WHEREAS, located in West Springfield, Washington Irving Middle School strives to promote lifelong learning and give students a strong foundation for academic, behavioral, social, and emotional development for rigorous learning; the school builds strong relationships between students, faculty, staff, families, and the community to work toward continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, Washington Irving Middle School helps young people become effective communicators, goal-directed and resilient individuals, critical thinkers who collaborate with others to solve problems creatively, and ethical, respectful citizens prepared to lead in a global society; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Star School designation is presented by the Department of Education and the Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; for the current academic year, Washington Irving Middle School was one of 189 schools in the Commonwealth, and one of 40 schools in Fairfax County, to receive the designation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children have been participating in the Purple Star School program since 2018; Purple Star Schools retain the designation for three years before being required to reapply; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for the Purple Star School designation, Washington Irving Middle School has cultivated a military-friendly atmosphere and provides peer transition teams for incoming and outgoing students, as well as helpful resources and programming on issues important to military families; and

WHEREAS, as part of its qualification, Washington Irving Middle School maintains a trained staff point of contact as a primary link between military families and the school; the point of contact also conducts professional development sessions regarding special considerations for military students and their families; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the sometimes transient nature of military postings, Washington Irving Middle School maintains informational resources on the arrival of new students, records requests and transfer assistance for outgoing students, and long-term academic planning; and

WHEREAS, Washington Irving Middle School has a student-led transition program, which includes a student transition team coordinator, to provide peer support for both newly enrolled and withdrawing students; and

WHEREAS, Washington Irving Middle School also provides information on specialized subjects like special education, parental rights, parent-teacher associations, extracurricular activities, local community supports, and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Washington Irving Elementary School on its selection as a Purple Star School for the 2022-2023 academic year; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Washington Irving Middle School as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the school's outstanding contributions to young people and support for military families in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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