

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 272

Commending the KLM Scholarship Foundation.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 26, 2023

WHEREAS, for more than 20 years, the KLM Scholarship Foundation, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization in Henrico, has helped make higher education more affordable for students in need by awarding generous scholarships to cover the cost of college textbooks; and

WHEREAS, Kimberly L. Martin created the KLM Scholarship Foundation to honor the legacy of her maternal great-grandmother, Florence B. Bowser, a trailblazing leader in education who supported Black students in the Commonwealth in the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Virginia State University, Florence Bowser cultivated a partnership between the Sleepy Hole District School Improvement League and the Rosenwald rural school building program to establish a new school in Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, led by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, the owner and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, the Rosenwald program donated funds and contributed materials and labor to help build more than 5,000 schools serving Black communities across the South; and

WHEREAS, Florence Bowser oversaw construction of the Florence Graded School, now known as Florence Bowser Elementary School, which was one of 400 Rosenwald schools built in the Commonwealth and has served generations of Suffolk students for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, inspired by stories of her great-grandmother's passionate advocacy for equity in education, Kimberly Martin founded the KLM Scholarship Foundation in 2002; and

WHEREAS, during its 20-year history, the KLM Scholarship Foundation has distributed more than half a million dollars in book scholarships to students attending colleges and universities in the Commonwealth, ensuring that financial status is not a barrier to higher education for these students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the KLM Scholarship Foundation hereby be commended for its commitment to helping students achieve their academic goals on the occasion of the organization's 20th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of Florence Bowser Elementary School; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kimberly L. Martin, founder of the KLM Scholarship Foundation, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the organization's achievements.

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