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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 208

Offered March 7, 2022

Commending Rose Hill Elementary School.

Patrons—Surovell and Ebbin

WHEREAS, for 65 years, Rose Hill Elementary School has provided an outstanding educational foundation for young people in the Alexandria community; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School and the community of Rose Hill were named after an 18th-century estate once located nearby that was established by Daniel French, the first builder of Pohick Church, on land that had been part of George Mason's Gunston Hall estate; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School opened on September 3, 1957, with an initial enrollment of 482 students in grades one through seven; in the 1960s, enrollment rose to more than 700 students due to the addition of a care center for babies and kindergarten classes; and

WHEREAS, other major changes occurred for Rose Hill Elementary School in the 1960s, including racial integration and the construction of the first intermediate schools in Fairfax County, when seventh-grade students were reassigned to Mark Twain Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, during that period, Rose Hill Elementary School students began receiving swimming and water safety instruction as part of their regular physical education program; the school partnered with Meadowview Pool and was one of the first schools in Fairfax County to offer a program to improve physical fitness through swimming; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School was designed by the architecture firm Willgoos and Chase and originally had 20 classrooms, a library, an administrative office, a clinic, and a cafeteria; the first major addition was completed in 1971, including the construction of a gymnasium, music room, and seven new classrooms, and a second major addition was completed in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School proudly offers preschool and preschool enhanced autism programs where students as young as two years old receive an adapted curriculum that provides equal access to academics, music, art, and physical education; and

WHEREAS, the Rose Hill Players theatre group has hosted a theatrical production almost every year since 1988; the play is a community effort where parents make the costumes, teachers provide drama instruction, and former students return to run the music and lights and serve as stage managers; and

WHEREAS, as part of the second-grade science curriculum, Rose Hill Elementary School maintains a certified monarch butterfly garden in its courtyard, and students care for the garden on a year-round basis; and

WHEREAS, with more than 31 years of service, Rose Elementary School maintains one of the longest standing dual-language Spanish Immersion programs in Fairfax County, and the diverse student body of Rose Hill Elementary School represents young people from more than 26 nations of origin; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School has benefited from an active parent-teacher association that has helped to raise funds to update the tables in the cafeteria and purchase student laptops and other classroom technology; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill Elementary School has fulfilled its mission to give young people the tools to become lifelong learners through the hard work and dedication of its faculty, administrators, and staff members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Rose Hill Elementary School on the occasion of its 65th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Rose Hill Elementary School as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the school's long history and contributions to the Fairfax County community.

INTRODUCED

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