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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 301

Offered February 25, 2022

Commending Pamela Northam.

Patrons—Murphy, Guzman, Jenkins, Kory, Sewell, Sickles and Willett

WHEREAS, Pamela Northam served as the First Lady of Virginia along with her husband, the 73rd Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam from 2018 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Northam brought her perspective as a former teacher, occupational therapist, environmentalist, and mother to help shape the Executive Mansion and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Northam used her position as First Lady to advocate for expanded access to quality early childhood education, so that all students in the Commonwealth could succeed in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, through her time as First Lady, Pamela Northam expanded and unified Virginia's early childhood system to reach more than 50,000 students and worked with legislators to effectively invest historic funding for Virginia's youngest learners; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Northam was a persistent advocate for education at all levels, traveling over 12,000 miles throughout her time as First Lady to visit over 200 schools and programs in all corners of Virginia; she relished every opportunity to listen and learn from those doing the work and give them a voice in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Northam served as chair of Virginia's Children's Cabinet alongside the Lieutenant Governor and the Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry, Education, Health and Human Resources, and Public Safety and Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, in that capacity, Pamela Northam brought stakeholders together in an effort to cooperatively address the needs of Virginia's children; this was an especially crucial role as the Commonwealth addressed the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Northam always encouraged bipartisanship throughout her work; she built consensus with legislators on both sides of the aisle with the goal of leaving the Commonwealth a better place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Pamela Northam for her service to the Commonwealth as First Lady; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Pamela Northam as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her support of Virginia's children.

INTRODUCED

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