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**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 693**

Offered June 13, 2024

*Celebrating the life of Erma Dean Wiggins Price.*

Patron—Price

WHEREAS, Erma Dean Wiggins Price, an accomplished educator and band director and beloved member of the Newport News community, died on May 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the former Huntington High School in Newport News, Erma Price earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Winston-Salem State University and later studied at Old Dominion University and what is today Christopher Newport University; and

WHEREAS, Erma Price joined Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) in 1971 as the junior band director at the former Huntington High School and shortly thereafter assumed the post of choir director at Warwick High School, leading the school's treble chorus, boy's chorus, a cappella chorus, and mixed chorus with great success; and

WHEREAS, Erma Price next served NNPS as an elementary school resource band director, lending her expertise to a number of schools before she was assigned to be the band director at the former Dunbar Middle School in 1976, where she guided more than 200 student-musicians to excellent and superior ratings in competition before transferring to Hines Middle School in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with her fellow music educators and core teachers at Hines Middle School, Erma Price developed several interdisciplinary programs that transformed middle school music curricula in Newport News and Hampton; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her duties at Hines Middle School, Erma Price joined the faculty at Heritage High School as assistant band director when the school opened in 1996; five years later, she became the first African American female band director in the history of NNPS; and

WHEREAS, Erma Price's bands at Heritage High School were the pride of southeast Newport News, delighting audiences at various local events, as well as at competitions throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Erma Price will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by her loving husband, Arthur; her children, Stephanie and Gregory, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Erma Dean Wiggins Price, a treasured member of the Newport News community whose light brightened countless lives; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Erma Dean Wiggins Price as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.