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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 634

Offered July 17, 2024

Commending Martha Hutzel.

Patron—

WHEREAS, in 2024, Martha Hutzel retired from the Central Rappahannock Regional Library after more than 37 years of service to the library system and a transformative eight-year tenure as director; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her distinguished career, Martha Hutzel held numerous leadership positions in the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, including head of circulation for a branch location and manager of three different branch locations; and

WHEREAS, after becoming director, Martha Hutzel guided Central Rappahannock Regional Library to expand its locations and services, oversaw the development of innovative new programs, and reinvigorated the library system's commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, under Martha Hutzel's leadership, Central Rappahannock Regional Library worked with Germanna Community College to open a joint-use library at the Barbara J. Fried Center, opened a new branch location at Spotsylvania Towne Centre, and opened two satellite locations to better serve rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Martha Hutzel enhanced existing branches through renovation and improvement projects that created more space for books, more meeting and study rooms, and more privacy pods, allowing libraries to accommodate more members of the public; she also expanded the Library on the Go mobile outreach program, which purchased two new vans through grants in 2017 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, in addition to physical media, Martha Hutzel oversaw a steady growth in digital materials and created the Tech on the Go collection, which circulates laptops and mobile hotspots; in 2020, she helped establish the IdeaSpace: Making+Media, which offers empowering technology to the public, such as booths for audio and visual recording, 3D printers, laser cutters, video conversion equipment, drawing tablets, and sewing and embroidery machines; and

WHEREAS, outside of her career with the library system, Martha Hutzel is a trusted local leader who volunteers her time with numerous organizations; she is an active board member of the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, a former president of the Rotary Club of North Stafford, and a current member of the Rotary Club of Rappahannock-Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in her field, Martha Hutzel is a past president and current member of the Virginia Library Association and a member of the Public Library Association and the American Library Association; and

WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades, Martha Hutzel received the Laurie A. Wideman Enterprising Woman's Award from the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2017 and the Patricia Lacey Metzger Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Mary Washington at its 2018 Women's Leadership Colloquium; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Martha Hutzel hereby be commended on the occasion of her retirement as director of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Martha Hutzel as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for her contributions to literacy and library science in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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