

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 575

Commending St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 10, 2025

Agreed to by the Senate, February 13, 2025

WHEREAS, during the 2024–2025 academic year, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, a private college preparatory school in Alexandria, celebrated its 100th anniversary of providing an outstanding education to generations of students; and

WHEREAS, in 1924, the St. Agnes School Foundation purchased the Lloyd House on what is now Fontaine Street, and St. Agnes Episcopal School (SAS) opened in September of that year with an inaugural class of 59 coed students in kindergarten through ninth grade under the leadership of Mary Josephine White as the original principal; and

WHEREAS, SAS offered boarding and day school options and hosted intramural athletics and academics competitions for students; in 1927, Helene Haskin became the school's first graduate, and an award bearing her name is still given to one exceptional “scholar athlete” every year; and

WHEREAS, in the 1930s, SAS published its first student newsletter, *Sparks*, its first student newspaper, *Shearings*, and its first yearbook, *The Lamb's Tail*, named for the school's mascot; and

WHEREAS, SAS joined the Church Schools in The Diocese of Virginia (CSDV) in 1944, and after the establishment of the St. Stephen's Episcopal School for Boys (SSS), male students from SAS in grades three through eight began attending the new boys' school; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, SSS graduated its first class of seniors, George Ford, Gene Golien, and Howard Whellan, and published the first issues of its school newspaper, *The Deacon*, and its yearbook, *The Scroll*; and

WHEREAS, SAS and SSS proudly broke down racial barriers in education in the 1960s, with SSS becoming the first school in the diocese to pursue racial integration when Lloyd Alexander Lewis enrolled in 1961; SAS enrolled its first Black male student, Eric Miller, in 1965 and its first Black female student, Laureen Jones, in 1967; and

WHEREAS, SAS and SSS began offering coed exchange programs for certain classes in 1969, and by the late 1980s, the CSDV decided to merge both institutions into one coed Episcopal school; and

WHEREAS, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School officially reopened in 1991 as a fully merged coed school on two campuses, with students in kindergarten through eighth grade attending the former SAS campus and students in ninth grade through 12th grade attending the former SSS campus; *The Voice* became the new school newspaper, while *Traditions* became the new yearbook; and

WHEREAS, through the 1990s and 2000s, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School developed several capital campaigns and strategic plans to continue providing a high-quality education for students and guide the institution into the future; in 2022, it purchased three acres of land from nearby St. Andrew's United Methodist Church to provide an opportunity for further expansion; and

WHEREAS, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School began celebrating its 100th anniversary in July 2024 and has hosted numerous events to commemorate this incredible milestone; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its outstanding achievements in service to young people in Alexandria.

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