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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 979

Offered October 28, 2025

*Celebrating the life of Cecelia Cassandra Taliaferro Tucker.*

Patron—Scott, D.

WHEREAS, Cecelia Cassandra Taliaferro Tucker died on July 29, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, activism, and an unwavering commitment to education; and

WHEREAS, Cecelia “Cee Cee” Cassandra Taliaferro Tucker was born on April 17, 1939, in Martinsville and raised in South Hill; she was the beloved daughter of Emmett Nelson Taliaferro, a school principal, and Josephine Foster Taliaferro, a dedicated teacher, and was the eldest of three children; and

WHEREAS, Cee Cee Tucker was an academic trailblazer who graduated as valedictorian of East End High School and earned a bachelor's degree in biology, *cum laude*, from Virginia Union University, as well as a master's degree in biology from Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Virginia Union University, Cee Cee Tucker met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an encounter that profoundly influenced her life and activism, and went on to participate in the historic 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech; and

WHEREAS, in her early career as a high school biology teacher at Booker T. Washington High School, Cee Cee Tucker was recognized as a Distinguished Teacher and Instructor by the Booker T. Washington High School Friends and Alumni Association for standing alongside her students in advocating for integration and educational equity; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Cee Cee Tucker married Billy Jack “BJ” Tucker, and together they raised three daughters—Karen, Kelly, and Kimberly—and shared four decades of marriage until his passing in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Cee Cee Tucker's lifelong commitment to social progress extended beyond the classroom, as she became a founding member of the Urban League of Hampton Roads, where she served as a builder of institutions, a champion of justice, and a mentor to generations of community members; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Cee Cee Tucker began her tenure as the assistant to the president for community relations at Old Dominion University, where she served four university presidents over the span of 30 years and worked to strengthen ties between the university and the African American communities of Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Cee Cee Tucker retired from Old Dominion University as assistant to the president emerita and was honored with the creation of a scholarship fund in her name, as well as a civic proclamation from the City of Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, Cee Cee Tucker's service to education continued in retirement as she answered the call to serve as special advisor to the president for diversity at Virginia Wesleyan University, a role she held until her passing; and

WHEREAS, a woman of faith, Cee Cee was a devoted member of Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church for more than 50 years, where she served faithfully on the Board of Trustees Ministry, guiding her community with spiritual strength and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Cee Cee Tucker's service touched a vast array of organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Norfolk Community Hospital, Norfolk Medical Society, William A. Hunton YMCA, the United Negro College Fund, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., the NAACP, and the Rotary Club of Hampton Roads, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Cee Cee Tucker touched countless lives through the warmth of her spirit, the strength of her convictions, and her commitment to creating opportunities for others through education, dialogue, and compassionate action; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by her husband, BJ, Cee Cee Tucker will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her daughters, Karen, Kelly, and Kimberly, 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 Cecelia Cassandra Taliaferro Tucker; 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 Cecelia Cassandra Taliaferro Tucker as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

HR979