

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 967

Celebrating the life of Jane Baber White.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, October 29, 2025

WHEREAS, Jane Baber White, talented landscaper and historic preservationist who restored or rehabilitated several notable buildings and gardens in Lynchburg, died on June 17, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Jane White grew up in Lynchburg and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from what is now Hollins University in Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, Jane White initially began her career working in a biology lab, but eventually answered her true calling and became a landscaper; her unwavering dedication and transformational leadership in her field helped revitalize several Lynchburg neighborhoods and preserved important aspects of local history for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her career, Jane White restored or enhanced the Yoder Community Center, the E.C. Glass High School Art Collection, the Lynchburg Humane Society building, the Central Virginia Speech and Hearing Center, and the Phillis Wheatley Shelter for Battered Women; and

WHEREAS, Jane White cofounded the Friends of Tinbridge Hill Group, which led a neighborhood revitalization project that involved many local charitable organizations and city agencies; she worked closely with "Tinbridge Hill Mayor" Aubrey Barbour, the Yoder Community Center, Friends of Tinbridge Hill, St. John's Episcopal Church, city officials, and others to transform the landscapes, streets, and amenities of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Jane White also oversaw the placement of 30 historical highway markers that called attention to the achievements of women and people of color in the Lynchburg area, reshaping the community's understanding of its history; and

WHEREAS, Jane White was best known for her work on Old City Cemetery and the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum, both of which are significant historical sites and support the local economy as popular tourism destinations; and

WHEREAS, after the Old City Cemetery sustained severe damage from a storm in 1993, Jane White spearheaded a comprehensive restoration movement and served as director of the cemetery from 1993 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, as one of the oldest municipal cemeteries in the country, Old City Cemetery represents a cross-section of Lynchburg's population dating back to the early 1800s, and Jane White guided repairs in a respectful manner that preserved the site's unique character; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Jane White was asked personally by the son of Anne Spencer, a poet and prominent figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the early 20th century, to restore the garden at his mother's former home; and

WHEREAS, Jane White's attentive rehabilitation of the Anne Spencer Garden, a tranquil space that inspired much of Anne Spencer's poetry, contributed to a better understanding of the poet's life and works; and

WHEREAS, the landscaping, tree planting, and nature trails projects Jane White led throughout the Lynchburg area have not only served as tools for local ecology and conservation, but have also provided a more natural environment for plants and animals, as well as recreation opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, Jane White also left an indelible mark on the community through her fundraising endeavors, volunteer recruitments, and networking of local service providers for neighborhood projects large and small over the years; and

WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades over the course of her career, Jane White received the Brownson Medal from the Virginia Association of Museums and a Lifetime Achievement award from Who's Who; she was the first Central Virginian to receive the Garden Club of Virginia's Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement, the club's oldest and most prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Jane White will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband, Kenneth; her children, Virginia, Kenneth, Jr., and Charles, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Jane Baber White, who transformed the Lynchburg community through her achievements as a landscaper and historic preservationist; 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 Jane Baber White as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

ENROLLED

HR967ER