

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 977

*Celebrating the life of Joyce Patricia Jordan Gatling.*

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

WHEREAS, Joyce Patricia Jordan Gatling of Portsmouth, a passionate educator, active community leader, and woman of deep and abiding faith who dedicated her life to the service of others, died on June 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born on May 27, 1945, to the late Alton R. Jordan and Ethel H. Jordan, Joyce Gatling was a devoted daughter, sister, mother, educator, missionary, and tireless advocate for justice and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Gatling was a proud graduate of Crestwood High School and pursued higher education at Norfolk State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, and Virginia State University, where she earned a master's degree in the same field; and

WHEREAS, for 39 years, Joyce Gatling served with distinction as an elementary school teacher at Deep Creek Elementary in Chesapeake Public Schools; she was highly admired for her dedication to the academic and personal growth of generations of young people; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Gatling's passion for nurturing children extended beyond the classroom through her selfless service as a children's missionary with Child Evangelism Fellowship, ministering to young hearts and spreading the message of hope both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, a woman of unwavering faith, Joyce Gatling was a devoted member and servant of several congregations throughout her life, including Olive Branch Baptist Church, Second Calvary Baptist Church, Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church, and most recently, First Baptist Church South Hill; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Gatling was also a committed community leader and political activist, serving as chaplain of the Portsmouth City Democratic Committee and as a lifetime member of the NAACP, offering spiritual guidance, civic leadership, and an unshakable voice for equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Gatling's legacy of faith, compassion, and service will continue to shine through all who were blessed to know her, and her memory shall remain a beacon of light and inspiration; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Gatling will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her daughter, Jewel, 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 Joyce Patricia Jordan Gatling; 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 Joyce Patricia Jordan Gatling as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for her memory.

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