

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 716

*Commemorating the life and legacy of Sallie Chew Baker.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, June 28, 2024

WHEREAS, Sallie Chew Baker, an accomplished businesswoman and educator and esteemed member of the Caroline County community, died on December 6, 1978, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, alongside her husband, Dansberry Baker, Sallie Chew Baker raised six children, many of whom continued to reside in the Caroline County area in their later years; and

WHEREAS, known affectionately by friends and family members as "Dear Mama," Sallie Chew Baker's home was a focal point of her community and provided a safe and nurturing environment in which local children could thrive; and

WHEREAS, Sallie Chew Baker played an integral role in preserving the land and building in the Woodford community of Caroline County that originally housed the historic Guinea one-room schoolhouse where the area's Black students were educated until integration in the late 1950s; and

WHEREAS, after she effectively advocated for her cause and raised money through a number of fundraisers to buy the property, the Caroline County School Board formally transferred the deed to Sallie Chew Baker on July 24, 1959; and

WHEREAS, Sallie Chew Baker briefly used the schoolhouse to establish an Ever Ready Club for local children before donating the land for the creation of the new Macedonia Baptist Church in Woodford in 1961; and

WHEREAS, on Easter Sunday in 1963, Sallie Chew Baker presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the official opening of Macedonia Baptist Church, which has since served as the spiritual home for numerous congregants and families; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2022, a road marker detailing the history of the Guinea one-room schoolhouse was unveiled in Caroline County, which will serve to honor and preserve the legacy of Sallie Chew Baker for the benefit of future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the life and legacy of Sallie Chew Baker hereby be commemorated to acknowledge the profound and meaningful impact she had on the Caroline County community; 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 Sallie Chew Baker as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her contributions to Caroline County and the Commonwealth.

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