

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200104D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 664

Offered May 13, 2024

Prefiled May 13, 2024

4 *Commending Eunice E. Y. Haigler.*

5 Patrons—Cole, Mundon King, Anthony, Askew, Gardner, Henson, Herring, Laufer, McClure, McQuinn,  
Rasoul, Scott, D., Sewell, Ward and Watts

6 WHEREAS, Eunice E. Y. Haigler is a champion for civil rights and social justice who has served  
7 the Fredericksburg community and the Commonwealth in numerous capacities over the course of her  
8 distinguished career; and

9 WHEREAS, Eunice Haigler grew up in Fredericksburg and studied at Rutgers University, earning a  
10 master's degree in women's issues; and

11 WHEREAS, Eunice Haigler pursued a career as a qualified mental health professional but was also a  
12 staunch advocate for human rights, participating in countless marches, rallies, and demonstrations  
13 throughout her life; and

14 WHEREAS, Eunice Haigler joined Virginia Organizing, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that  
15 brings people together to enhance the quality of life in their communities; during her tenure, she worked  
16 to address immigration reform, fair hiring laws, the school-to-prison pipeline, and policing reform; and

17 WHEREAS, in later life, Eunice Haigler has become a highly admired local historian in  
18 Fredericksburg and served as a trusted community liaison to Delegate Joshua Cole; and

19 WHEREAS, a woman of deep faith, Eunice Haigler has spent many years supporting churches in the  
20 Fredericksburg area as an administrator, photographer, and counselor; and

21 WHEREAS, in an effort to enhance racial diversity in its congregation, the Unitarian Universalist  
22 Church of Fredericksburg contacted Eunice Haigler at Virginia Organizing, which led to the creation of  
23 the Race Coalition of Fredericksburg; and

24 WHEREAS, as part of that initiative, Eunice Haigler researched the history of Juneteenth, which  
25 commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, and embarked upon a seven-year project to see  
26 Juneteenth designated as a state holiday in the Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, Eunice Haigler's hard work paid off when the General Assembly passed legislation  
28 establishing Juneteenth as a state holiday in 2020; and

29 WHEREAS, Eunice Haigler is the proud matriarch of a large family, including five children, 15  
30 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren, and she relishes every opportunity to pass along her passion  
31 for community engagement to new generations of servant leaders; now, therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Eunice E. Y. Haigler hereby be commended for her  
33 legacy of service to the residents of Fredericksburg and the Commonwealth as a whole; and, be it

34 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
35 for presentation to Eunice E. Y. Haigler as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her  
36 personal and professional achievements.

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