

2001 SESSION

ENGROSSED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 837

Offered January 29, 2001

Commending Sheriff Clay Hester.

Patrons—Crittenden, Diamonstein and Hamilton; Senator: Maxwell

WHEREAS, Clay Hester, Sheriff of Newport News, retired on August 31, 2000, ending a meritorious 37-year career in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Arkansas, Clay Hester joined the Newport News Police Department in 1962, following an honorable discharge from the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, after 15 years with the Newport News Police Department, Clay Hester was elected Sheriff in November 1977, assumed office on January 1, 1978, and was reelected five times; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hester holds an associate degree in police science from Thomas Nelson Community College, attended Christopher Newport University, and has completed advanced training at the National Academy of Corrections and the FBI National Academy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as Newport News' Sheriff, Clay Hester has served on numerous statewide boards and commissions, including the Criminal Justice Services Board, to which he was appointed by Governor Charles S. Robb and reappointed by Governor Gerald L. Baliles; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hester has been an active member of the Virginia State Sheriffs' Association, serving on the board of directors and serving a term as president in 1985-1986; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hester was chairman of the Virginia Sheriffs' Legislative Committee for seven years, was president of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute from 1995 to 1997, and was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority from 1994 to 1999, Sheriff Hester was instrumental in the design and completion of the regional jail; and

WHEREAS, throughout a long and exceptionally effective career in law enforcement, Clay Hester has served the citizens of Newport News with dedication, integrity and commitment to the cause of public safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Sheriff Clay Hester on the completion of an outstanding career of public service; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Sheriff Clay Hester as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation and gratitude for his service to the citizens of Newport News and the Commonwealth.

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