

2004 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 470

Offered March 8, 2004

On the death of Norwood C. Middleton.

Patrons—Griffith, Fralin and Ware, O.; Senator: Bell

WHEREAS, Norwood C. "Woody" Middleton of Salem, a former managing editor of the *Roanoke Times* and the author of a widely respected history of the City of Salem, died on February 2, 2004; and

WHEREAS, a native of South Carolina, Woody Middleton graduated from Roanoke College, where he was president of the Honor Council and editor of the student newspaper; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, shortly after graduating, Woody Middleton joined the *Roanoke Times*, then interrupted his journalism career to serve in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Woody Middleton rejoined the newspaper after the war, was an award-winning reporter covering Virginia politics, served for more than 20 years as managing editor, and retired as assistant to the president in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Woody Middleton organized the Roanoke Valley's first July 4th Celebration at Victory Stadium, which has become a much anticipated annual event; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Woody Middleton became active in the Salem Historical Society, where he discovered that the City lacked a written record of its history; and

WHEREAS, Woody Middleton researched, wrote, and edited *Salem: A Virginia Chronicle*, which was published in 1986 and earned its author the first James Simpson Award from the historical society; and

WHEREAS, Woody Middleton gave generously to his community, serving in leadership positions with the Blue Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Salem Kiwanis Club, the Salem Chamber of Commerce, Gateway Tuberculosis Association, and many other worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his numerous contributions to the community, Woody Middleton was the recipient of the Charles R. Brown Award from Roanoke College, was named Roanoke Valley Father of the Year for religious activities in 1964, and was named Salem's Father of the Year in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Woody Middleton was the past president of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and a past director of the Virginia Society of Ornithology; and

WHEREAS, throughout a life of great personal and professional achievement, Woody Middleton served the citizens of the Roanoke Valley with dedication, distinction, and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of an exceptional Virginian, Norwood C. Middleton; 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 Norwood C. Middleton as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly. #

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