

## 2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

*On the death of Staige D. Blackford, Jr.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 16, 2004  
Agreed to by the Senate, January 22, 2004

WHEREAS, Staige D. Blackford, Jr., of Charlottesville, a former journalist and press secretary for the Governor of Virginia and for the past 28 years the editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, died on June 23, 2003; and

WHEREAS, a native of Charlottesville, Staige Blackford graduated from the Episcopal High School and the University of Virginia, where he was president of the Raven Society and a member of Phi Beta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, Staige Blackford was editor of the *Cavalier Daily*, and in his senior year wrote an editorial, called "Scholastic Segregation," that led to the first public debate on desegregation at the university; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from the University of Virginia in 1952, Staige Blackford attended Queens College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar, earning a degree in modern history; and

WHEREAS, Staige Blackford later joined the Central Intelligence Agency, served in the United States Air Force, and worked for *Time* magazine and the Louisiana University Press before moving to Norfolk to join the *Virginian-Pilot* as chief political writer; and

WHEREAS, Staige Blackford served as Governor Linwood Holton's press secretary and speechwriter, playing a leading role in developing the Governor's progressive position on race relations; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 Staige Blackford returned to Charlottesville and in 1975 became editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, a national journal of literature and discussion; and

WHEREAS, during Staige Blackford's tenure as editor, the *Virginia Quarterly Review* grew in national stature, and he oversaw the publication of the journal's 75th anniversary issue, which included a previously unpublished story by William Faulkner; and

WHEREAS, a man of significant accomplishment in many fields of endeavor, Staige Blackford leaves a lasting mark on Charlottesville, the University of Virginia, and the *Virginia Quarterly Review*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of a gifted Virginian, Staige D. Blackford, Jr.; 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 Staige D. Blackford, Jr., as an expression of the esteem in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

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