

2004 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 14, 2004

On the death of James Robert Butler.

Patrons—Deeds and Hanger; Delegates: Abbitt, Bell, Landes and Van Yahres

WHEREAS, James Robert Butler of Gordonsville, a pioneering leader in Albemarle County for many years, died on March 9, 2003; and

WHEREAS, a native of Woodville, James Butler grew up in Rappahannock County, served his country in the United States Army, and earned his degree from Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, James Butler had a long and distinguished career as an extension agent in Albemarle County and became the first African-American chief of an extension service office in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, James Butler retired from the extension service in 1979, the same year he won a national Boss of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, James Butler was elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, becoming the board's first African-American member; and

WHEREAS, James Butler gave generously of his time and talent to a variety of worthy organizations, including 4-H, Piedmont Virginia Community College, the NAACP, the Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company, and St. John Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his many contributions to the community, James Butler, along with John Baker, the first African-American member and chairman of the Albemarle County School Board, were honored in 2000 with the naming of Baker-Butler Elementary School in northern Albemarle County; and

WHEREAS, throughout a life of pioneering achievement, James Butler served the citizens of Albemarle County with exceptional dedication and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of an exemplary community leader, James Robert Butler; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of James Robert Butler as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

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