

2005 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 590

Offered January 12, 2005

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Celebrating the life of the Honorable John Anthony Garrett.

Patrons—Janis, Ingram, McDougle, O'Bannon and Reid; Senators: Lambert, Norment and Stosch

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Anthony Garrett, a native son of Richmond and a judge of the Henrico County General District Court, was summoned to the service of the highest court on December 22, 2004; and

WHEREAS, a prominent attorney, jurist, and consummate Virginia gentleman, John Garrett spent his life in the selfless service of others; and

WHEREAS, John Garrett graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1978, where he played rugby and earned a bachelor of arts in economics; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from VMI, John Garrett was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve, completed Engineer Officer Basic School, was promoted to first lieutenant, and served with honor and distinction until honorably discharged in 1996; and

WHEREAS, John Garrett earned his juris doctor from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond and was admitted to practice law in all the courts of the Commonwealth in 1981; and

WHEREAS, John Garrett established his practice in Louisa County, providing zealous representation and wise counsel to his neighbors, serving as town attorney for the Town of Louisa, earning the unqualified trust and confidence of the bench and bar, and establishing an unrivaled reputation throughout the community for integrity, fair play, and scrupulous courtesy; and

WHEREAS, John Garrett, appointed in 1989 to serve out the unexpired term of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the County of Louisa, won election in his own right to a full term the following year; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 John Garrett joined the staff of the Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney, where he rose to the rank of Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney and served until he was appointed to the bench; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 John Garrett was elected by the General Assembly to serve as a judge of the Henrico County General District Court; and

WHEREAS, as a General District Court judge, John Garrett treated every person who stood before him with dignity, courtesy, and respect, whether plaintiff or defendant, police or prosecutor, victim or accused; and

WHEREAS, diagnosed with a rare and particularly aggressive and deadly form of brain cancer, which required a painful and debilitating course of treatment, Judge Garrett continued to serve the citizens of Henrico County, demonstrating courage, dedication, fidelity and devotion to duty in the face of adversity and setback by remaining on the bench to administer justice; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Commonwealth have lost a loyal son, an avid sportsman, a prominent jurist, and true friend who, by his words and deeds, sought always "to do Justice, to love Mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly note with sadness the passing of an exceptional citizen of the Commonwealth, the Honorable John Anthony Garrett; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to his wife, Lynn Hartman Yuk Garrett, as an expression of the esteem in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

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