

2005 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 838

Offered January 25, 2005

Commending James W. Garner.

Patrons—Abbitt, Armstrong, Barlow, Byron, Callahan, Carrico, Council, Dudley, Hargrove, Hogan, Kilgore, Landes, O'Bannon, Scott, E.T., Sherwood, Shuler, Van Yahres, Ware, R.L. and Watts; Senator: Deeds

WHEREAS, James W. Garner, the highly respected State Forester of the Commonwealth since 1983, retired on October 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, James Garner, a native of Amherst County, graduated from Amherst High School in 1953 and served in the ROTC while at Virginia Tech, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in forestry and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, since 1958, James Garner has played a valuable role in successfully planning, promoting and implementing the vital programs and services of the Virginia Department of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, as assistant chief of forest management, James Garner initiated the first state-operated aerial spray program and herbicides research in 1976; and

WHEREAS, an acclaimed leader in forestry and conservation, James Garner was honored as the 1986 Man of the Year in Forestry, the 1989 State Conservationist of the Year, and Virginia Tech's first Outstanding Alumnus in 1996; and

WHEREAS, James Garner served on the board of the Nature Conservancy for eight years and was instrumental in the founding of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, which recognized him with its Visionary Leadership award; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the preservation of the Commonwealth's beautiful rivers, James Garner diligently worked with the Float Fisherman of Virginia as vice president and then as president to vastly increase the number of scenic river designations throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, committed to protect all of Virginia's bountiful and wondrous natural resources, James Garner served as a board member for the Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Wildlife Federation, and the Virginia Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, James Garner generously contributed his expertise as president of the National Association of State Foresters, the Mountain Lake Vegetative Management Council, and the West Virginia Management Council as well as an active member of the Pesticide Control Board, the Board of Fire Services, the Council on the Environment, the Southern Group of State Foresters, and the Society of American Foresters; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional mentor and supporter of young people, James Garner delighted in his role as Little League coach and Boy Scout leader and felt great pride when his scout troop played a key role in marking the entire length of the Dragon River Swamp channel; and

WHEREAS, James Garner has devoted his professional life to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth and to establishing an outstanding record of professionalism, integrity, and dedication; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend James W. Garner on the completion of an exemplary career of public service and wish him every happiness and success in his future endeavors; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to James W. Garner as an expression of the admiration and gratitude of the General Assembly.

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