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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 816

Offered January 26, 2007

Commending Thomas A. Edmonds.

Patrons—McClellan, Armstrong, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Callahan, Caputo, Cole, Cosgrove, Cox, Crockett-Stark, Dudley, Eisenberg, Gear, Hurt, Kilgore, Landes, Lewis, Melvin, Miller, P.J., Moran, Morgan, O'Bannon, Poisson, Putney, Reid, Shuler, Suit, Tata, Toscano, Waddell, Ward, Wardrup, Ware, O. and Watts

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Edmonds will retire in 2007 after 18 years of outstanding service as Executive Director of the Virginia State Bar; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the Duke University School of Law in 1965, Thomas Edmonds practiced law for a year in Florida before returning to Duke as a visiting associate professor of law, beginning a distinguished career in academia; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Edmonds went on to teach law at the University of Mississippi, the University of the Pacific, Florida State University, and the University of Richmond and served as dean at the University of Richmond and the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Edmonds became Executive Director of the Virginia State Bar in 1989 and his tenure is marked by many noteworthy accomplishments including organizing three conferences on legal education in Virginia; working with the Supreme Court of Virginia to implement educational programs for lawyers representing indigents and for solo and small firm practitioners; creating an online legal research tool for use by bar members; relocating and expanding the bar offices; and reorganizing staff and increasing the use of technology to achieve greater efficiency and productivity; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his exemplary career, Thomas Edmonds has been active in numerous professional organizations including the Association of American Law Schools, the American Bar Association, the Mississippi State Bar, and the National Association of Bar Executives, for which he served as president in 2005-2006; and

WHEREAS, always committed to being involved in his community, Thomas Edmonds has served on the board of directors of Offender Aid and Restoration, the Prison Visitation Project, and Boaz and Ruth, and on the board of trustees of Second Presbyterian Church, where he is a member; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Edmonds has served the Virginia State Bar with great vision and purpose and has unequivocally strengthened its mission to regulate the legal profession of Virginia, advanced the availability and quality of legal services provided to the people of Virginia, and assisted in improving the legal profession and the judicial system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Thomas A. Edmonds for his outstanding service to the Virginia State Bar; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Thomas A. Edmonds as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his many contributions and best wishes for a rewarding retirement.

INTRODUCED

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