

2008 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 286

Celebrating the life of Jo Ann Davis.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 29, 2008
Agreed to by the Senate, January 31, 2008

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Davis, a dedicated and energetic four-term Representative for Virginia's First Congressional District, died on October 6, 2007, in her Gloucester home after a valiant fight against breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, the first elected Republican woman in Congress from Virginia, Jo Ann Davis came from humble roots and worked her way up to the halls of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, a successful real estate broker, Jo Ann Davis began her political career in 1997 when she won election to the House of Delegates; just three years later she was elected to the House of Representatives, where she was known for being honest, very hard working, and independent-minded; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure in the House of Representatives, Jo Ann Davis served as chair of the House subcommittee that deals with federal workers' benefits and served on the House Intelligence Committee, the House Armed Services Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Davis was a strong advocate for the many military bases and related industries in her district, and her first piece of legislation, passed by the House in 2001, increased the life insurance benefit paid to survivors of military members killed on duty; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Davis sponsored legislation in 2002 to rebuild the United States Navy fleet to no fewer than 375 vessels, including 15 aircraft carrier battle groups, and secured \$169 million for construction on the Navy's next-generation aircraft carrier, CVN-21; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann Davis also worked tirelessly on behalf of federal employees, pushing the Bush administration to speed up federal hiring procedures and to create a more equitable system for compensating federal law-enforcement officers and insisting on legislative safeguards aimed at protecting basic employee rights; and

WHEREAS, closer to home, Jo Ann Davis fought for legislation to allow Virginia to regulate the trash shipped in from other states and to remove environmentally hazardous ships from the James River's "ghost fleet"; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great principle, clear judgment, and an indomitable spirit, Jo Ann Davis will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband of 33 years, Chuck Davis; their sons Christopher and Charles; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; 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 Jo Ann Davis, an outstanding public servant and a fine Virginian; 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 Jo Ann Davis as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

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