

096870784

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 905

Offered February 16, 2009

*Celebrating the life of Sami Azzam Kalifa.*

Patrons—Watts, Bulova and Hull; Senator: Saslaw

WHEREAS, Sami Azzam Kalifa of Annandale, a respected businessman and outstanding community volunteer, died on November 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, a native of Palestine, Sami Kalifa was the youngest of 10 children and was raised in Jordan and educated in Egypt before immigrating to the United States in 1969; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and patriotic man, Sami Kalifa worked hard during the day, attended school at night, and became a proud American citizen in 1975; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Sami Kalifa married his one and only love, the beautiful Jenny, and the couple had four wonderful children; and

WHEREAS, Sami Kalifa worked in the electronics field for many years before opening, with his wife, a flower shop, known as the Flower Den Florist, at the Bradlick Shopping Center at the corner of Braddock and Backlick Roads in Annandale in 1990; and

WHEREAS, beloved by his customers for his generosity and loving spirit as well as his commitment to excellent customer service, Sami Kalifa offered all his lady customers a free long-stemmed rose and provided quality floral services to the Northern Virginia community; and

WHEREAS, Sami Kalifa graciously and generously gave of his time and talents as the president of the Annandale Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Rotary Club, Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Language Access Roundtable; he also volunteered with voter registration and revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, Sami Kalifa loved his community of Annandale and desired to unite the community and create more civic pride; he was the driving force behind the creation of the Annandale flag; and

WHEREAS, a competition for the flag design was won by an Annandale High School student whose concept was refined by another Annandale resident, the president of the North American Vexillological Association; Sami Kalifa and other Chamber of Commerce members donated funds to make quantities of the flag available; and

WHEREAS, Sami Kalifa's integrity, born out of his Palestinian Muslim roots; his deep love for his community; and his respect for the humanity of each person he touched were major forces in bringing the Annandale community together following the September 11, 2001, terrorists attacks; and

WHEREAS, Sami Kalifa will be fondly remembered for his kind and generous nature and will be greatly missed by his wife, Gharam (Jenny); children Nader, Omar, Kamal, and Muna and their families, including six grandchildren; many friends and admirers; and the citizens of Annandale; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a fine community volunteer and outstanding Virginian, Sami Azzam Kalifa; 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 Sami Azzam Kalifa as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

HJ905