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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 456

Offered February 17, 2009

Celebrating the life of John Michael Finn.

Patrons—Miller, J.C. and Deeds

WHEREAS, John Michael Finn, a noted educator and nuclear physics research scientist, died on January 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a native of Brooklyn, New York, John Finn grew up in various places as a member of a military family; and

WHEREAS, John Finn was drafted after the Tet offensive of 1968 into the United States Army, where he served for two years as an infantryman with the Fourth Infantry Division; he received two United States Army Commendation Medals for meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, after his service, John Finn resumed his graduate studies and received a doctorate from the Catholic University of America; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant research scientist, he worked at the French Atomic Energy Commission's Center for Nuclear Studies at Saclay, the Laboratory for Nuclear Science of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Jefferson Lab, which brought him to Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, a beloved professor of physics at The College of William and Mary for 24 years, John Finn guided rising generations of students in their studies of physics; and

WHEREAS, John Finn wrote over 90 scholarly papers on nuclear physics and was the author of a textbook entitled *Classical Mechanics* and was at work on its companion volume at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, the other great interest of his life was poetry; John Finn published two books of poetry, *Flashback: A Journey in Time* and *Butterfly Girl* as well as a memoir of his time in Vietnam, entitled *Ghost Track*; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, John Finn loved spending time with his beloved wife, Kathryn, and their five children and two granddaughters; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated scientist, educator, and family man, John Finn will be missed by his family, friends, and students at The College of William and Mary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of an admired educator and outstanding Virginian, John Michael Finn; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of John Michael Finn as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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