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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 464

Offered February 19, 2009

*Celebrating the life of Melvin Ross Simpson.*

Patron—Locke

WHEREAS, Melvin Ross Simpson, a beloved family physician and longtime grass roots and civil rights activist, died on February 9, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a native of Norfolk, Melvin Simpson was born on July 26, 1925, to Paul and Zenobia Simpson; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Simpson proudly served his country during both World War II and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after receiving a bachelor's degree from Virginia State College (now University), Melvin Simpson received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a devoted and caring physician, Dr. Melvin Simpson began his family practice in Newport News in 1957 and served the community diligently for many years; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in his profession, Dr. Melvin Simpson was one of the founders of the Peninsula Association for Sickle Cell Anemia and was a charter member of the American Academy of Family Physicians; he also served as president of the Old Dominion Medical Society; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Simpson generously gave of his time and talents over the years as a member and former president of the Hampton Branch of the NAACP; as a member of the Citizens Boys and Girls Club of Hampton board, the City Charter Commission of Hampton, Senior Citizens Advisory Board of Hampton, American Cancer Society, and American Red Cross; and as a member of the board of visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Simpson also proudly mentored 12 young men from Hampton High School, Los Valientes (The Valients), in the late 1960s, was a member of the Beau Brummell Civic and Social Club, and served as an usher and on the board of trustees for Third Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melvin Simpson received many awards and accolades during his life for his work, including the Brotherhood Citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melvin Simpson will be sorely missed by his loving wife of 57 years, Ruth Jones Simpson; three daughters, Marlene, Rhonda, and Angela and their families; and his numerous friends and admirers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melvin Simpson leaves behind a legacy of service to his profession, community, country, and family that others may emulate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a dedicated physician and community volunteer, Melvin Ross Simpson; and, be it

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

INTRODUCED

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