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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 302

Offered February 18, 2010

*Commending the Honorable Thomas H. Wood.*

Patrons—Landes, Bell, Richard P. and Cline; Senator: Hanger

WHEREAS, the Honorable Thomas H. Wood, the esteemed judge of the Augusta County Circuit Court, retired in 2007, after having served his fellow citizens as the chief judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit since 2003; and

WHEREAS, Thomas "Tom" Wood was born on March 14, 1942, in Clifton Forge, the son of Henry and Pinkie Wood and brother to Joseph Wood, attended Clifton Forge High School, received a bachelor's degree in history and played football at Hampden-Sydney College, and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 Tom Wood married his high school sweetheart, Helen Gay Thomas, and the happy couple have three wonderful children, Andrea, Sally, and Tom, and seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Tom Wood began his distinguished legal career with Nelson, McPherson, Summers & Wood, L.C., where he became a respected partner and was engaged in the private practice of law for many years; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to justice for his fellow citizens, Tom Wood also served part-time as a respected assistant public defender and Commonwealth's attorney for the City of Staunton; and

WHEREAS, Tom Wood was appointed judge of the Staunton and Augusta County General District Court in 1980, serving for four years before becoming a judge for the Augusta County Circuit Court in 1984; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 Judge Wood became the chief judge of the 25th Judicial Circuit, serving with great distinction and wisdom until his retirement in 2007; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the bench, Judge Wood has served the citizens of the Commonwealth, in matters great and small, with his unique blend of good humor, intellect, common sense, and commitment to equal justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wood has given generously of his time and talents to professional and community organizations, including as a Staunton youth football coach and volunteer and as a member of First Presbyterian Church of Staunton; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life and career, Judge Wood has been recognized for his many contributions as a jurist and public servant; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wood's greatest delight is spending time with his wife, family, and friends, and he plans to enjoy golf and many other adventures in his retirement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Honorable Thomas H. Wood for his dedication to Virginia's judicial system, his profession, and the people of Staunton and Augusta County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Honorable Thomas H. Wood as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his longtime public service.