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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 772

Offered January 31, 2011

Celebrating the life of Mel Leaman.

Patrons—Carrico, Johnson, Abbott, Albo, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Brink, Bulova, Byron, Carr, Cleaveland, Cline, Cole, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Dance, Edmunds, Englin, Filler-Corn, Garrett, Gilbert, Greason, Habeeb, Herring, Hope, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, James, Janis, Joannou, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Kory, Landes, LeMunyon, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., Massie, May, McQuinn, Merricks, Miller, J.H., Miller, P.J., Morefield, Morgan, Morrissey, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Orrock, Peace, Phillips, Plum, Pogge, Poindexter, Pollard, Purkey, Putney, Robinson, Rust, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Sherwood, Shuler, Sickles, Spruill, Stolle, Surovell, Tata, Torian, Toscano, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, O., Ware, R.L., Watts, Wilt and Wright; Senators: Wampler and Puckett

WHEREAS, Mel Leaman, a beloved public servant and community leader from the Town of Marion, died on October 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a native of Washington, D.C., Mel Leaman grew up in the Marlowe Heights area of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Mel Leaman relocated to the historic Town of Marion in Smyth County in the mid-1970s, working for Appalachian Power Company and later serving as the exemplary director of the Smyth County Free Clinic, ensuring that local residents had access to critical health care services; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in the community, Mel Leaman was elected four times to the Town Council of Marion, where he worked to ensure efficient and effective local government for residents; and

WHEREAS, Mel Leaman ably represented his constituents, worked cooperatively with other Council members and government officials, and gave memorable service on numerous local boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, Mel Leaman served with distinction as the former chair of the Smyth County Democratic Party and was a frequent visitor to the State Capitol as the diligent and knowledgeable aide to former Delegate John Tate; and

WHEREAS, Mel Leaman dealt with constituents, other members of the General Assembly, and various staff members in a professional, courteous, and respectful manner; and

WHEREAS, a man of great faith with a compassionate heart, Mel Leaman was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church where he enjoyed the fellowship of his fellow members, sang in the choir, and served in the men's vestry; and

WHEREAS, with an unflagging devotion to the welfare of his fellow residents and the betterment of his community, Mel Leaman set a high standard for public service; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mel Leaman will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 34 years, Jane; children, Kelly, Michelle, and Brian and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and admirers; 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 a beloved public servant and community leader from the Town of Marion, Mel Leaman; 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 Mel Leaman as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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