

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 861

Offered February 11, 2011

Celebrating the life of Merrill Sickles, Jr.

Patrons—Hugo, Albo, Brink, Bulova, Carrico, Comstock, Ebbin, Englin, Filler-Corn, Herring, Keam, Kory, LeMunyon, Plum, Rust, Scott, J.M., Sickles, Surovell and Watts

WHEREAS, Merrill Sickles, Jr., of Fairfax, a loving husband, father, and former federal employee, died on April 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Merrill Sickles was born on December 13, 1924, the youngest of three children born to Merrill Sickles, Sr., and Olive Sickles; and

WHEREAS, as an active young man, Merrill Sickles played soccer and ran track; he also earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award at age 16; and

WHEREAS, intelligent and hard-working, Merrill Sickles graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School as a member of the National Honor Society and then attended The American University; and

WHEREAS, Merrill Sickles began his career as a warehouse manager of a department store before moving back to the D.C. area and working as a transportation tariff examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission; and

WHEREAS, a valued employee, Merrill Sickles enjoyed a 39-year career with the federal government, where his knowledge and devotion to duty made a valuable contribution; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Merrill Sickles enjoyed spending time with his friends and family; writing, including his own "fun and faith" book entitled *The Mixing Bowl*; and teaching kids and their parents to fish; and

WHEREAS, throughout his adult life, Merrill Sickles dedicated himself to serving the Lord in whatever way he could, including using his notable vocal talents; in fact, his musical talents brought him to his wife, Catherine, whom he met while they were both singing in the Billy Graham Crusade Choir in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Merrill Sickles loved to share his faith with others and his smile and warm spirit uplifted all those with whom he came in contact, leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Merrill Sickles will be greatly missed by his beloved wife of 57 years, Catherine; their children Debbie and Mark 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 fine Virginian, Merrill Sickles, Jr.; 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 Merrill Sickles, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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