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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 932

Offered February 18, 2011

Celebrating the life and accomplishments of Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Patrons—Pogge; Senator: Norment

WHEREAS, Thomas Nelson, Jr., was a member of the House of Burgesses, Governor of Virginia, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the Commonwealth's and nation's most revered statesmen; and

WHEREAS, a native of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson was born on December 26, 1738, and studied at a private school in London and the University of Cambridge before returning to the colonies; and

WHEREAS, a man of means and influence, Thomas Nelson rendered great service to his native Virginia and played a pivotal role in the formation of the United States during the course of his life; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1774, Thomas Nelson was appointed to the first general convention, which met in Williamsburg; he returned the following year and introduced a resolution calling for the formation of a colonial militia; and

WHEREAS, in July 1775, the third convention of Virginia delegates assembled at Richmond, and Thomas Nelson was chosen to represent the colony at the Continental Congress, where he served with great distinction until 1777, when he suffered the onset of a disabling malady; and

WHEREAS, as his health improved, Thomas Nelson was called upon by the governor to lead the colony's forces as brigadier general and commander in chief; his personal generosity and commitment to the cause of independence greatly aided the military forces in their successes; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Nelson answered the call to duty again in 1779, accepting a seat in Congress until his health failed again; he quickly recovered and led several military expeditions against the British before filling the seat vacated by Governor Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, as the colony faced the threat of incursions by the British, the Governor was forced to retreat to Staunton where he continued to generously support the army until its triumph at his hometown of Yorktown; and

WHEREAS, a man of great vision and determination, Thomas Nelson died a few years later on January 4, 1789, at the age of 50, after having made considerable personal sacrifices for the Commonwealth and nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby celebrate the life and many accomplishments of a true patriot, Thomas Nelson, 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 Thomas Nelson, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory and admiration for his efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth and nation.

INTRODUCED

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