

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 979

Offered February 21, 2011

Celebrating the life of Billie Ray Burchett.

Patron—Wilt

WHEREAS, Billie Ray Burchett was a resident of Briery Branch in Rockingham County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Billie Ray Burchett was born on March 6, 1954, in Mallory, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his birth, Billie Ray Burchett was diagnosed with severe Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, doctors attending to Billie Ray Burchett at the time of his birth advised his family that he would likely die in early childhood; and

WHEREAS, Billie Ray Burchett overcame his medical obstacles and was 56 years of age at the time of his death on April 14, 2010; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Billie Ray Burchett provided his family and friends with a constant source of inspiration; and

WHEREAS, Billie Ray Burchett, through the spirit of innocence he embodied during his life, touched the lives of friends, neighbors, and family members; and

WHEREAS, Billie Ray Burchett regularly attended First Assembly of God Church in Harrisonburg, where he ministered to all parishioners with his love of his fellow man and his spirit of benevolence and compassion; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by his mother and father, Irean and Garland Burchett, Billie Ray Burchett will be remembered and profoundly missed by his many sisters, brothers, extended family members, neighbors, and others who knew him; 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 Billie Ray Burchett, a special person whose life story and ability to overcome obstacles provides a source of inspiration for all Virginians; 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 Billie Ray Burchett as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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