

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

Offered January 26, 2012

Commending the legacy of John Randolph of Roanoke.

Patron—Ware, R.L.

WHEREAS, the great Southside of Virginia has from the inception of the Commonwealth been represented in the United States Congress (not to mention the House of Delegates) by individuals of singular character, conviction, and accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, no Virginian has ever equaled the precise manner of the representation accorded the Southside by John Randolph of Roanoke Plantation in Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, John Randolph of Roanoke was descended from several of the ancient families of the Old Dominion, including the Randolphs, Blands, and Tuckers, and including, too, the family of Chief Powhatan through his daughter Pocahontas, whose son Thomas Rolfe was, too, among the great legislator's forebears; and

WHEREAS, John Randolph was engaged in debate—and in decision—on the most important questions of the generation that succeeded the Framers of the United States Constitution, including in a renowned debate, at Charlotte Courthouse, with the revered Patrick Henry; and

WHEREAS, it was the singular admixture of philosophical centricity and personal eccentricity embodied by John Randolph of Roanoke that commends to every new generation of Virginians the summons of his principles and the example of his passions (he was, for example, routinely accompanied on the Floor of Congress by numerous of his hunting dogs, whose removal was finally ordered by Speaker Henry Clay, against whom Randolph had fought a duel); and

WHEREAS, there is now soon to appear a new biography of Randolph, authored by The Honorable David E. Johnson, Esq., of Midlothian, author previously of the biography of Douglas Southall Freeman, to be published in the Spring of 2012 by Louisiana State University Press and promising to be not only the consummate examination of its subject but the summons for a new generation of readers to meet through the written page one of the great individuals of the Virginian tradition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the House commend to its memory the legacy of John Randolph of Roanoke as one of the great champions of the rights of the States within the Federal Republic of yore; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this Resolution for presentation to Mr. David E. Johnson, Esq., in gratitude for those labors of his mind and pen which have issued in a major new biography of an inimitable Virginian of Virginians.

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