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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 76

Offered March 9, 2012

*Celebrating the life of Anthony Joseph Basile.*

Patrons—Morrissey and Ingram

WHEREAS, Anthony Joseph Basile, a barber who was the proprietor of one of the longest-serving businesses in Hopewell, a talented carpenter, and a driving force behind local beautification and preservation efforts, died on June 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hopewell, Anthony "Tony" Joseph Basile proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II; he fought in the Pacific theater, participated in the battle of Guadalcanal, and was wounded during the battle for Bougainville; and

WHEREAS, Tony Basile was 10 years old when he embarked on his life's work; he started working at his father's barbershop as a boy and was a barber for 71 years; for much of his career, Tony Basile would use part of his day off to visit local hospitals and nursing homes to give free haircuts; and

WHEREAS, the barbershop that his father founded in Hopewell in 1915 continued to thrive under Tony Basile's ownership; he operated the business until 2003 and was known to take his barbering skills to customers' homes when they were unable to visit his shop; and

WHEREAS, Tony Basile was quite proud of his hometown; he was a founder and chairman of the Appomattox Cemetery Beautification Committee, which initially was formed to ensure that repairs were made to the cemetery wall and crepe myrtle trees were replanted following a damaging storm; his wife, Mildred, assisted him in this effort; and

WHEREAS, as one of the first members of Hopewell Preservation, Inc., Tony Basile helped preserve the Beacon Theater; his carpentry skills were evident when he built a replica of the theater's ticket booth; he was also an advocate for other historic preservation efforts in the city; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Tony Basile belonged to the Historic Hopewell organization and the Hopewell Twinning Association; a man of strong faith, he frequently used his carpentry skills on behalf of his church, most notably constructing an altar railing and helping to restore a set of imported gates; and

WHEREAS, those remaining to cherish the memory of Tony Basile are his wife, Mildred; his daughters, Janet and Linda, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and former customers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of an esteemed citizen of Hopewell, Anthony Joseph Basile; 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 Anthony Joseph Basile as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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