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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 197

Offered February 24, 2012

*Celebrating the life of William Andrew Patton.*

Patron—Puckett

WHEREAS, William Andrew Patton of Clinchco, a coal miner who served as an effective advocate for other miners and was a former member of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and the county School Board, died on January 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, William Andrew "Bill" Patton was an outstanding athlete at Clinchco High School, playing baseball and basketball; he continued to play baseball on many local coalfield teams, and he played professionally for the St. Louis Cardinals' minor-league team in Lynchburg for two years; and

WHEREAS, a proud veteran, Bill Patton served the nation as a member of the United States Army Air Corps and was on active duty in Japan at the end of World War II; after his military service ended, he joined the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Bill Patton worked for Pittston Coal Company for 47 years as a miner and was a member of the United Mine Workers of America; during his career, he worked with legislators, staff, and related organizations on numerous legislative priorities, including the Commonwealth's black lung legislation; and

WHEREAS, community involvement was important to Bill Patton; he was a chairman of the Dickenson County Democratic Party and served in local government as a member of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and on the Dickenson County School Board; and

WHEREAS, in representing the Ervinton District of Dickenson County, Bill Patton worked hard on behalf of the students and the school administration; he was quite proud of the work done by the Dickenson County Career Center and its staff; and

WHEREAS, an enthusiastic sportsman, Bill Patton spent many enjoyable hours hunting and fishing in the beautiful mountainous countryside of Virginia's Appalachian region; he was a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels; and

WHEREAS, Bill Patton will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his wife, Janice, and their children and by many more family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of an outstanding Virginian who worked hard for the people of the Commonwealth's coal-mining communities, William Andrew Patton; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of William Andrew Patton as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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