

13104835D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 855

Offered February 7, 2013

Celebrating the life of Luther Everette Welch.

Patron—Ransone; Senators: McDougle and Stuart

WHEREAS, Luther Everette Welch, a fourth-generation farmer who helped preserve Northumberland County's rich agricultural traditions, died on November 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Northumberland County, Luther Welch was born on January 7, 1932, in Edwardsville and attended school in Heathsville; and

WHEREAS, tending to crops and livestock on his family's farm from a young age, Luther Welch learned the value and rewards of hard work; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch grew up during the Great Depression and developed a passion for the land and the bounty it can provide to a hungry world; and

WHEREAS, beginning his farming career without mechanized equipment, Luther Welch plowed his fields behind a mule and hand-shocked wheat; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch ensured the success of his farm by staying on the cutting edge of new techniques; he adopted a no-till method of farming in the 1950s and later implemented the practice on all of his lands; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch believed that the highest calling was to serve the community by tending to the land and ensuring that people had the best quality food to eat; today, his son, Alan, has followed in his footsteps as a farmer; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Luther Welch amassed a large collection of farm equipment and artifacts; in 2008 he donated land and a portion of this collection to help found the Northern Neck Farm Museum at Coopers Lane; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch used the proceeds from his memoir, *The Boy and the Mule*, to support the museum, which named its Luther Welch Agricultural Center in his honor, allowing future generations to enjoy the history and traditions of rural Northumberland County; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch contributed to the future of the farming community as a longtime member of the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northumberland County Young Farmers; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch enjoyed faith and fellowship with the community at Morattico Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon for almost 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Luther Welch is survived by his beloved wife of over 60 years, Margaret; children, Marie, Sylvia, and Alan, and their families; and many other family members and friends; 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 Luther Everette Welch, a prominent farmer and a cherished contributor to the well-being of the Northumberland County community; 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 Luther Everette Welch as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

HJ855