

2014 SESSION

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14104257D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 239

Offered January 30, 2014

Celebrating the life of Roscoe Edward Burgess, Sr.

Patron—Landes

WHEREAS, Roscoe Edward Burgess, Sr., a respected public servant who was a member of the Bridgewater Town Council for 20 years, died on May 23, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bridgewater who made friends wherever he went, Roscoe Burgess was a flooring installer for 50 years; he also was a highly regarded baseball player and a man of faith; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe Burgess was the first African American to be elected to the Bridgewater Town Council; while serving on the council, he took a special interest in recreation and police activities, and in November 2012, he was reelected to his sixth consecutive term; and

WHEREAS, a talented baseball catcher, Roscoe Burgess was one of the first African Americans to play in the Rockingham County Baseball League (RCBL); he played for the Briery Branch and Harrisonburg teams and also was manager of the Harrisonburg team, the ACs; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe Burgess was instrumental in having the ACs, an all-black team, join the Rockingham County summer baseball league; shortly before he died, he was elected to the RCBL Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, faith and service to others were hallmarks of Roscoe Burgess' life; he was a deacon at North River Baptist Church and a chaplain at Sentara RMH Medical Center, volunteered at a Bridgewater area food pantry, was a member of the NAACP, and sang in numerous choirs; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by his wife, Josephine, Roscoe Burgess will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his sons, Ronald and Roscoe, Jr., 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 Roscoe Edward Burgess, Sr., a dedicated public servant and member of the Bridgewater Town Council, who contributed to the betterment of the town in many ways; 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 Roscoe Edward Burgess, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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