HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 348

Celebrating the life of Bassam Khalil Abdallah.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 28, 2014 Agreed to by the Senate, March 5, 2014

WHEREAS, Bassam Khalil Abdallah of Centreville, a devoted husband and father who immigrated to the United States as a young man and became a citizen in 1982, and an entrepreneur who founded Almas Jewelers, died on August 10, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Beirut, Lebanon, and one of seven children, Bassam Abdallah moved to the United States in 1974 and earned a bachelor's degree in 1976 from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst: and

WHEREAS, Bassam Abdallah traveled to Canada in the summer of 1976 to serve as a translator at the Summer Olympic Games in Montreal; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Bassam Abdallah became a member of a Masonic Lodge in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, joining at the Sublime level; it was an organization to which he was strongly attached; he was recognized for his 35 years as a Master Mason in March 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bassam Abdallah had an entrepreneurial spirit, starting his own business in 1991 with the opening of Almas Jewelers in Centreville; the store has provided the members of the community with quality products and excellent customer service since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Bassam Abdallah will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, three daughters, 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 Bassam Khalil Abdallah of Centreville, a devoted husband and father who immigrated to this country when he was a young man and became a proud citizen of the United States and an entrepreneur who started Almas Jewelers; and, be it

RESOLVED FÜRTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Bassam Khalil Abdallah as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.