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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Offered February 21, 2014

Celebrating the life of Henderson Patton Graham.

Patrons—Campbell, Chafin, Kilgore, and O'Quinn

WHEREAS, Henderson Patton Graham, a strong supporter of the Town of Marion and Smyth County, a dentist, a devoted husband and father, and a man of vision and faith, died on September 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham lived in Marion for almost six decades; he began practicing dentistry in 1954, and in that capacity he was acutely aware of the medical needs of the residents of the rural county in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham was known for his persistence and his ability to get things done; in 1967, he helped found the Smyth County Community Hospital and was chairman of its governing body for 29 years, providing thoughtful and caring leadership; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham worked for years to promote a strong economy and bright future for Marion; he was president of the Marion Jaycees in 1954, and his civic service continued well into the 21st century, as he was president of the Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham was appointed to the board of the Virginia Board of Dental Examiners and also served as its president; additionally, he was president of the American Association of Dental Examiners; and

WHEREAS, always interested in ways to serve and improve the Marion and Smyth County areas, Henderson Graham was a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Marion; he became a district governor for Rotary and was named a Paul Harris Fellow for his many years of "service above self"; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham was a patriot and proud leader of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization, which is a liaison between the members of the military's Reserve forces and civilian employers; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Henderson Graham continued to advocate for quality health care; he was chairman of a committee that studied the best way to reuse the Smyth County Hospital facility after a new one had been built; the site will soon become the new School of Health Sciences for Emory and Henry College; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, Henderson Graham liked to dance—especially the jitterbug—and he used his love of the intricate work that dentistry requires to carve dollhouse replicas of family furniture using his dental instruments; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Henderson Graham enjoyed fellowship and worship at Marion First United Methodist Church; he also regularly attended Mountain View Methodist Church, where his son John is pastor; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Graham will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife of 59 years, Jouette; children, Mimi, Patton, Tom, John, and their families; and many other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of an esteemed Virginian, Henderson Patton Graham, a steadfast supporter of the Town of Marion and Smyth County, a dentist, devoted husband and father, and a man of vision and faith; 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 Henderson Patton Graham as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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