

2014 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

Offered March 4, 2014

Commending Mike O'Neil.

Patrons—Yancey and Mason

WHEREAS, Mike O'Neil, a community icon in Newport News, retired as the owner of Mike's Place Irish Restaurant on December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mike O'Neil founded Mike's Place as a sports bar in 1981; Mike's Place later expanded to a full, sit-down restaurant and adopted an Irish pub theme, with Mike O'Neil's wife, Kippe, preparing desserts; and

WHEREAS, new to the restaurant business, Mike O'Neil surrounded himself with an outstanding staff and built a family-like culture that helped the restaurant succeed and continued to serve the community for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, a renowned storyteller, Mike O'Neil has entertained generations of customers with jokes and sports banter as they await delicious fare, such as the restaurant's signature Big O Burger; and

WHEREAS, Mike's Place earned many loyal, regular customers, including prominent members of the community and even a former Virginia Governor, and the restaurant has hosted many celebrations, memorial services, and Irish wakes over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mike O'Neil officially sold his restaurant to new owners in 2014, but he still greets customers and friends at his customary table; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Mike O'Neil hereby be commended on the occasion of his retirement as owner of Mike's Place Irish Restaurant; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mike O'Neil as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to the Newport News community.

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