

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5075

Offered May 5, 2014

Celebrating the life of John D. Hardesty.

Patrons—Minchew, LaRock, Austin, Carr, Cole, Davis, Fowler, Hodges, Hope, Keam, Knight, Kory, Landes, Leftwich, McQuinn, Morrissey, Plum, Rasoul, Scott, Simon, Spruill, Surovell, Tyler, Ware and Watts; Senators: Barker, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Garrett, Howell, Petersen, Puckett, Ruff, Saslaw and Wagner

WHEREAS, John D. Hardesty of Berryville, a respected farmer and dedicated community leader who made many lasting contributions to the well-being of Clarke County, died on April 15, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a Clarke County native with deep family roots in the area, John "Jack" D. Hardesty fulfilled his dream of becoming a farmer when he opened Harvue Farms with his father in 1949; he helped the farm grow from a 25-cow herd to a dairy that produces millions of pounds of milk each year and ships the genetics of its registered Holsteins all over the world; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer for Virginia in 1955, Jack Hardesty was a well-known member of the agriculture industry; he offered his wise leadership to several peer organizations at local, state, and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to the community, Jack Hardesty was elected to the Clarke County Board of Supervisors, where he served for 30 years, including 17 years as chair, and helped strengthen and secure the future of the county by developing its first Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Jack Hardesty was selected to serve on the Bank of Clarke County board of directors; becoming the chair in 1986, he helped the bank thrive and better serve the members of the community by expanding from two branches to 11, including nine in the City of Winchester and Frederick County; and

WHEREAS, working to better the lives of his fellow Clarke County residents, Jack Hardesty donated his time and talents to many civic and service organizations; as a member of the Clarke County Ruritan Club, he was instrumental in the acquisition of the Clarke County Ruritan fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, earning numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to the agriculture industry and leadership of Clarke County throughout his life, Jack Hardesty was named the 2014 Citizen of the Year by the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hardesty enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as a member of Burnt Factory United Methodist Church and a past chair of the administrative board at Crums United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Carter, Jack Hardesty will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his sons, John, Jr., and David, and their families and numerous 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 John D. Hardesty, an admired farmer and a pillar of the Clarke 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 John D. Hardesty as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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