## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5161**

Celebrating the life of Lester Elton Pruitt.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, September 18, 2014 Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, Lester Elton Pruitt, a respected businessman and former Mayor of the Town of Chatham, died on June 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pittsylvania County, Elton Pruitt served his country with the National Guard of the United States; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Elton Pruitt served members of the community at the Western Auto-True Value store; he owned and operated the store for 22 years, earning a reputation as an honest and hardworking businessman; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to the community, Elton Pruitt ran for and was elected to the Chatham Town Council; beginning in 1992, he served on the council for eight years, including two terms as mayor; and

WHEREAS, as mayor, Elton Pruitt oversaw numerous enhancements to the town, including the construction of a new fire station, completion of a town website, and several other infrastructure upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Elton Pruitt also worked to better the lives of his fellow residents as a 30-year member and president of the Chatham Lions Club, the chair of the board of Oak Grove Residential Care, and a board member of the Faith Home and the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Elton Pruitt served as a ruling elder and a Sunday school teacher at Chatham Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Elton Pruitt will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 53 years, Betty, and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; 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 Lester Elton Pruitt, a respected businessman and dedicated public servant in the Town of Chatham; 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 Lester Elton Pruitt as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.