

## 2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 739

Offered February 4, 2015

*Celebrating the life of Thomas F. Bergin.*

Patrons—Toscano, Bell, Robert B., Howell, McClellan, Sullivan and Surovell; Senators: Deeds, Edwards and McEachin

WHEREAS, Thomas F. Bergin, a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Virginia School of Law who was profoundly respected by students and faculty alike, died on December 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of New Haven, Connecticut, Thomas Bergin graduated from what is now known as Choate Rosemary Hall; he was a standout baseball player in his youth, helping his team to win first place in the Greater New Haven League two consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bergin joined many of the other young men of his generation in service to his country during World War II; he served with the 69th Composite Wing of the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater and was a French and Japanese translator in China; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge, Thomas Bergin resumed his education, earning a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a law degree from Yale University; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bergin practiced law in New York City for nine years before becoming assistant to the president of Sarah Lawrence College and a professor at Yale University; and

WHEREAS, continuing his career in academia, Thomas Bergin joined the University of Virginia School of Law in 1963; during his exceptional 30-year career, he founded the joint degree program in law and economics and taught a graduate program for judges, as well as several other courses; and

WHEREAS, admired for his quick wit and sense of humor, Thomas Bergin was also known as a precise and rigorous scholar who inspired excellence in his students and fellow educators; upon his well-earned retirement in 1992, *Virginia Law Weekly* and the *Virginia Law Review* both paid tribute to his accomplishments and leadership in the field; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas F. Bergin Teaching Professorship, a chair that is awarded annually to an outstanding University of Virginia educator, is named in Thomas Bergin's honor as a lasting tribute to his legacy; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bergin will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his daughter, Anne, and her family and by numerous other family members, friends, colleagues, and former students; 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 Thomas F. Bergin, a highly admired scholar and dedicated educator; 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 Thomas F. Bergin as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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