

2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 261

Offered February 19, 2015

Celebrating the life of Stephen E. Beck, Jr.

Patron—Filler-Corn

WHEREAS, Stephen E. Beck, Jr., of Burke, a passionate supporter of people with disabilities who touched countless lives through his actions and advocacy, died on December 8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Beck earned a bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and worked for Dominion Electric Supply in Chantilly, where he served as assistant vice president of operations; and

WHEREAS, the devoted father of a child with Down Syndrome, Stephen Beck was committed to enhancing the quality of life of all people with disabilities and their families; he served as the vice chair and longtime board member of both the National Down Syndrome Society and Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, over an eight-year period, Stephen Beck advocated for the passage of the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014, which enables individuals with disabilities and their families to establish tax-free savings accounts for education, medical, job training, housing, or transportation expenses; and

WHEREAS, the ABLE Act passed the United States House of Representatives with overwhelming support on December 3, 2014, with Stephen Beck in attendance, and subsequently passed the United States Senate and was signed into law in 2014; the ABLE Act represents the first major legislative reform for the disabled since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the ABLE Act was renamed in Stephen Beck's honor, and his daughter, Natalie, will be the first beneficiary of an ABLE account, fulfilling his mission to not only secure a better future for his daughter, but help others do the same for their children; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Beck will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Catherine; daughters, Natalie and Mariae Rose; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Stephen E. Beck, Jr., a passionate advocate for people with disabilities and their families; 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 Stephen E. Beck, Jr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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