SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

Celebrating the life of Carl Michael Ross.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 28, 2015

WHEREAS, Carl Michael Ross, a hardworking public servant, passionate social worker, and dedicated volunteer who worked to enhance the quality of life of his fellow Petersburg residents, died on January 23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a native of Annapolis, Maryland, Carl "Mike" Ross graduated from Annapolis Senior High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from what is now Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ross began his career as a social worker at Southside Virginia Training Center; he later provided mental health support at Poplar Springs Hospital and supported members of the military as an education service and test control officer at an Army Continuing Education System center and a Military Entrance Processing Station; and

WHEREAS, an active and enthusiastic volunteer in the Petersburg area, Mike Ross was a founding member of the Petersburg Academic Sports League and frequently worked with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Civilian Welfare Fund Council; he served as president and treasurer of the East Walnut Hills Neighborhood Association; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ross was a devoted supporter of education as a member of the Petersburg High School PTA, board member of John Tyler Community College, and former member and vice chair of the Petersburg School Board; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of service to his fellow residents, Mike Ross ran for and was elected to the Petersburg City Council; he served from 2003 to 2015 and had recently been appointed to serve as vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ross lived his faith through his actions and enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community at Greater Faith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Petersburg, where he was a trustee and sang in the choir; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ross cared deeply for his loved ones, and he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by numerous family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Carl Michael Ross, a public servant, social worker, and volunteer who served and supported the Petersburg community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Carl Michael Ross as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.