

2016 SESSION

INTRODUCED

16106112D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

Offered March 9, 2016

Commending the Reverend Dr. Charles A. Summers.

Patrons—McEachin, Dance, Deeds, Howell and Saslaw

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Charles A. Summers, who has served faithfully as pastor and head of staff of First Presbyterian Church in Richmond for 15 years and guided his congregation to embrace a deeper commitment to help the needy at home and abroad, retired on February 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Summers is highly respected as a preacher and teacher; in his ministry at First Presbyterian Church, he emphasized biblical teachings and the message that, above all, Christians must love and care for one another; and

WHEREAS, that message of love and service was put into action by the Reverend Summers and the First Presbyterian Church congregation; members endeavored to help the homeless, brighten children's lives, and bring hope to the hopeless; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Reverend Summers and the members of First Presbyterian Church actively supported Boaz & Ruth, Inc., a nonprofit community revitalization and employment training organization, Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Community, and George Mason Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, under the Reverend Summers' guidance, First Presbyterian Church's international mission work included building clean water systems in Nicaragua and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, in his life and ministry, the Reverend Summers has been a role model to many people for his tireless efforts on behalf of those in need; he has been a mentor, counselor, and friend, offering compassion, consolation, and hope to those in great distress; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Summers first moved to Richmond when he was 15 years old and attended John Marshall High School, which had recently been integrated; his experiences there helped to shape his life, convincing him to focus on social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Summers graduated from Davidson College, and later in his career was its chaplain—fondly known to students as Charlie Chaplain; he served churches in Washington, D.C., and Charlotte, North Carolina; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Reverend Dr. Charles A. Summers, who was an esteemed and admired pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond for 15 years, hereby be commended on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Charles A. Summers as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect and admiration for his ministry and exemplary service and his work for social justice for all people.

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