

**2017 SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 858**

*Celebrating the life of Joel Willis Richert.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 3, 2017  
Agreed to by the Senate, February 9, 2017

WHEREAS, Joel Willis Richert, a passionate activist and preservationist who compiled a comprehensive directory of the historic homes in Old Southwest Roanoke, died on July 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, born Donna Kay Balster, Joel Richert moved to the Old Southwest neighborhood of Roanoke to raise her family in 1971; she worked with other local homeowners to enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood and support its designation as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, Joel Richert helped to ensure that all renovations to neighborhood homes were done in a historically sensitive manner and that all work had been approved by the Architectural Review Board; and

WHEREAS, a regular attendee of Architectural Review Board and zoning meetings, Joel Richert helped protect the residential quality of Old Southwest Roanoke by opposing efforts to widen Franklin Road and advocating for restrictions on commercial through traffic; and

WHEREAS, gaining an encyclopedic knowledge of the 800 homes in Old Southwest Roanoke, Joel Richert compiled the information into a file, which is available in the Virginia Room of the Roanoke Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Joel Richert is fondly remembered and greatly missed by her husband, Bob; children, Curt and Tam, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; 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 Joel Willis Richert; 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 Joel Willis Richert as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

**ENROLLED**

**HJ858ER**