

2017 SESSION

INTRODUCED

17100261D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 98

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled December 21, 2016

*Celebrating the life of Alvin W. Blaha.*

Patrons—Ruff, Dance, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Howell, McPike, Norment, Spruill, Stuart, Wagner and Wexton

WHEREAS, Alvin W. Blaha, a lifelong resident of Dinwiddie County who was a passionate advocate and trusted ambassador for the farming community throughout the Commonwealth, died on June 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Blaha learned the value of hard work and responsibility at a young age, clearing brush and trimming weeds on his family farm, and his sense of duty led him to serve his country as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, after a 34-year career with Hercules, Inc., in Hopewell, Alvin Blaha became a full-time farmer and offered his leadership and expertise to the agriculture community as a member of numerous agricultural organizations, boards, and advisory committees at local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Blaha served as president or chair of the boards of the Virginia Soybean Association, Southern States Southside Cooperative, Virginia Cotton Growers Association, and as a member of the Virginia Farm Bureau Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Dinwiddie County Planning Commission, Dinwiddie County Farm Bureau, and Dinwiddie County Soil & Water Board, Alvin Blaha worked to ensure a strong future for the county and for all of his fellow residents; and

WHEREAS, well-known for hosting events at his farm, Alvin Blaha welcomed about 900 second-graders to his farm to learn about agriculture each October; he earned the respect of his colleagues for his unfailing dedication, wealth of knowledge, and passion for service; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Blaha enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as a member and past president of St. John's Catholic Church, where he served on the finance committee; and

WHEREAS, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Alvin Blaha will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 56 years, Nina; children, Cindy and Eric, and their families; and numerous other family members, colleagues, and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Alvin W. Blaha, a farmer who worked tirelessly to strengthen the agriculture community in Dinwiddie County and the Commonwealth; and, be it

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

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