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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 272

Offered February 13, 2018

Celebrating the life of Edmond Boxley Fitzgerald III.

Patrons—Adams, L.R., Marshall and Poindexter; Senators: Ruff and Stanley

WHEREAS, Edmond Boxley Fitzgerald III, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, respected business leader, and dedicated community member who served in numerous civic positions in Pittsylvania County and Gretna, died on May 19, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Edmond Fitzgerald was a Pittsylvania County native who graduated from Gretna High School as his class valedictorian; after volunteering for the United States Army on his 17th birthday, he went on to serve in Europe during World War II; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Edmond Fitzgerald earned a bachelor's degree from The College of William and Mary, where he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Edmond Fitzgerald joined Peoples Mutual Telephone Co., his family's independent telephone business; during a 50-year career, he worked alongside his father, son, daughter, and son-in-law and helped the company grow from one small exchange serving 400 telephones to over 7,000 customers; and

WHEREAS, a respected authority in his field, Edmond Fitzgerald was a board member of the Virginia Independent Telephone Association for 28 years and served as its president in 1971; he also served on various committees of the United States Independent Telephone Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his successful business career, Edmond Fitzgerald was a dedicated member of the local community who served on the Pittsylvania County School Board for several years, including stints as its chairman and vice chairman; he was also a member and former vice chairman of the board of Danville Community College; and

WHEREAS, in his hometown of Gretna, Edmond Fitzgerald served on the town council, was a longtime vice mayor, and served as acting mayor for six months; and

WHEREAS, Edmond Fitzgerald brought his experience to the board of directors of the Peoples Bank of Gretna, the Gretna Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, and served as chairman of the Ramsey Memorial Medical Center for 49 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Edmond Fitzgerald was named the Gretna Chamber of Commerce's outstanding citizen of the year; an avid conservationist, he was also honored as the 1988 regional tree farmer of the year; and

WHEREAS, Edmond Fitzgerald was a 32nd Degree Mason and a 60-year member of Anderson Lodge 258 A.F. and A.M.; and

WHEREAS, a man of strong faith, Edmond Fitzgerald was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Gretna, where he served on the board of deacons, taught Sunday school, and sang in the choir; he held leadership positions with the Staunton River Baptist Association, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and the Virginia Baptist Homes Board; and

WHEREAS, Edmond Fitzgerald will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his wife, Emily; his children, Ann and Ed, and their families; and many other family members, friends, and members of the Pittsylvania County community; 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 Edmond Boxley Fitzgerald III, a talented business and civic leader who provided exemplary service to the residents of Pittsylvania County; 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 Edmond Boxley Fitzgerald III as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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