

2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 402

Offered February 27, 2018

Celebrating the life of Lieutenant Colonel Walter Joseph Potock, USAF, Ret.

Patrons—Bulova; Senator: Petersen

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Joseph Potock, USAF, Ret., a longtime resident of the City of Fairfax and a decorated veteran, died on August 21, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hubbard, Ohio, Walter "Walt" Joseph Potock learned the value of hard work and responsibility at a young age while growing up on his family's farm; he worked for a railroad company before joining the United States Air Force in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Walt Potock was stationed in Japan and assigned to the Air Rescue Service, participating in numerous water rescue operations involving mariners and downed airmen; he was later assigned to Otis Air Force Base and flew radar patrol missions over the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Walt Potock was stationed in Germany, then was deployed to Vietnam as a forward air controller, flying dangerous, low-altitude reconnaissance and target identification missions; for one such mission, he received the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry in support of friendly troops on the ground; and

WHEREAS, Walt Potock returned home to the United States and served at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida and Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland before his well-earned retirement from the military; and

WHEREAS, Walt Potock was an active member of the Fairfax community as a youth athletics coach, a member of American Legion Post 177, and a volunteer with the City of Fairfax Police Department; and

WHEREAS, a proud patriot, Walt Potock served on the Fairfax Independence Day Celebration Committee for many years and helped organize the Fourth of July parade, as well as other special events; and

WHEREAS, Walt Potock will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Charlie; his sons, Steve and John, 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 Lieutenant Colonel Walter Joseph Potock, USAF, Ret., a respected veteran and community leader in Fairfax; 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 Lieutenant Colonel Walter Joseph Potock, USAF, Ret., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory and thankfulness for his presence among us.

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