

2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 139

Celebrating the life of Meriwether Lee Payne.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 22, 2018
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 2, 2018

WHEREAS, Meriwether Lee Payne, a beloved husband and father, accomplished business leader, and devoted conservationist who worked to preserve the natural beauty of the Tidewater region, died on March 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a Norfolk native, Lee Payne earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania before serving as an officer in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, a talented banking professional, Lee Payne spent his early career in New York before returning to Norfolk in 1951; over the next 30 years, he successfully managed Seaboard Citizens National Bank as it evolved and grew into a major entity of SunTrust Bank; and

WHEREAS, along with his successful banking career, Lee Payne served as a member and rector of Old Dominion University's Board of Visitors from 1978 to 1985; in addition to spearheading the development of the university's Blackwater Ecological Preserve, he also assisted in the planning of the Jefferson Lab nuclear accelerator facility in Newport News and helped grow the university's field hockey program into a national contender; and

WHEREAS, as a longtime supporter of land conservation and education, Lee Payne gave generously of his time and talents to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission, the Lincoln-Lane Foundation, Norfolk Academy, and the Nature Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, Lee Payne was also active in the Literary Fellowship, the Port and Poetry Society, and the Folly Creek Corporation of Cedar Island; and

WHEREAS, remembered for his sharp wit and gentlemanly demeanor, Lee Payne was happiest when spending time with family and enjoying outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, Lee Payne will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his wife, Eunice; children, Meriwether, John, and Ruth, and their families; and many other family members, friends, and Norfolk residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Meriwether Lee Payne, a respected business leader and conservationist; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Meriwether Lee Payne as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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