

2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 237

Celebrating the life of Lionel Reginald Hope.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 7, 2018
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 8, 2018

WHEREAS, Lionel Reginald Hope, a beloved husband and father, talented community leader, and former Alexandria City Council member who served as Alexandria's first African American vice mayor, died on November 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, born in Hampton, Lionel Hope attended Phenix High School and excelled at sports, serving as captain of the basketball team and leading the football team to two state championships as its quarterback; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Lionel Hope entered the United States Navy and served his country during World War II; he then attended Hampton University and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Lionel Hope married Emma Littlejohn; the couple later moved to Alexandria, where he became president of the Alexandria Neighborhood Citizens Improvement Association, an urban renewal organization; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hope was elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1982 and served until 1992; during his tenure, he advocated for public education, fought to decrease crime, and worked to create more affordable housing in the city as the chair of the Community Development Block Grant Board; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 1991, Lionel Hope made history when he was elected as the City of Alexandria's first African American vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hope's additional involvement with the City of Alexandria included service with the Alexandria Economic Opportunity Commission, the Alexandria Hospital, the Alexandria Industrial Authority, the Budget Ad Hoc Committee, Hopkins House, Mica Housing Incorporated, and the Potomac Yard Small Area Planners; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hope was a lifetime member of the NAACP and a member of the American Legion; throughout his career, he received outstanding service awards from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Lionel Hope will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his wife of 54 years, Emma; his children, Lionel Jr., Matheline, Debbie, and Joseph, and their families; and numerous other family members, close friends, and Alexandria 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 Lionel Reginald Hope, a respected leader who gave exemplary service to the Alexandria community; and, be it

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

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