

## 2019 SESSION

INTRODUCED

19106828D

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 284

Offered February 14, 2019

*Celebrating the life of John Harper.*

Patrons—Torian, Ayala, Carroll Foy, Carter, Guzman and Roem

WHEREAS, John Harper, a trailblazing civic leader in Dale City and Prince William County, died on February 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, John Harper was a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the United States Army Command and General Staff College and held a master's degree in technology management from the American University; and

WHEREAS, John Harper served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War, earning the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster during his two tours in combat; he retired as a lieutenant colonel after 24 years of service; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1987, John Harper served the Prince William County community for 10 years as director of the Dale City Sanitary District; he was the first African American department head in the county; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, John Harper became the first African American elected to the Prince William County School Board, and in August 2017, Covington-Harper Elementary School was partially named in his honor by Prince William County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, John Harper was the first African American to serve on the board of directors for the Prince William County Park Authority and the first African American to serve as grand marshal for the Dale City Fourth of July Parade; and

WHEREAS, in later life, John Harper earned his Realtor license and helped members of the community find the right home; and

WHEREAS, John Harper was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite mason and a member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; he enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Dale City; and

WHEREAS, John Harper will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Beulah; their three sons; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of John Harper; 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 John Harper as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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