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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 131

Offered February 18, 2020

*Commending John T. Dever.*

Patrons—Norment, Deeds, Howell, Mason and Reeves; Delegates: Adams, D.M., Cole, M.L., Delaney, Hope, Rasoul and Ware

WHEREAS, after more than eight years of dedicated leadership and service to students, John T. Dever retired as president of Thomas Nelson Community College in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, John Dever began his 40-year career in education at Thomas Nelson Community College in 1975, serving as an English professor and chair of the Communications and Humanities Division; and

WHEREAS, John Dever subsequently worked as dean of instruction and student services at Blue Ridge Community College, vice president for academic and student affairs at Tidewater Community College, and executive vice president for academic and student services at Northern Virginia Community College; and

WHEREAS, John Dever brought his wealth of experience in higher education administration to Thomas Nelson Community College in October 2011, when he began his tenure as the eighth president of the institution; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, John Dever developed a keen understanding of complex issues affecting community colleges, including transfer programs, diversity and inclusion, distance learning, developmental education, general education, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, in his final months as president of Thomas Nelson Community College, John Dever oversaw programs to achieve the goals related to student success, enhanced community partnerships, and overall excellence from the institution's *Focus 2020* strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, John Dever has also offered his leadership to the boards of the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development, the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education, GENEDGE, Riverside Lifelong Health, and Greater Peninsula Now, and he will seek new ways to serve the community after his well-earned retirement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend John T. Dever on the occasion of his retirement as president of Thomas Nelson Community College; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to John T. Dever as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his legacy of contributions to higher education in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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