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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 633

Offered January 27, 2021

Celebrating the life of Kelly Brice Walters.

Patron—Rush

WHEREAS, Kelly Brice Walters, a husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and teacher who was the walking image of a true community servant, died on December 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters began his career at the Blue Ridge Overall factory, where he worked for four years, and the Cromer Furniture Company in Christiansburg, where he worked for three years; he then served as caretaker of the Christiansburg Cemetery Corporation for the next 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters ultimately went to work as an animal control officer in Montgomery County for nearly two decades, retiring as the chief animal control officer for Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Kelly Walters joined the Christiansburg Life Saving and First Aid Crew, later known as the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, where he served as captain, first and second lieutenant, treasurer, and president of the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his meritorious service, Kelly Walters was named the Christiansburg Rescue Squad's Crewman of the Year on numerous occasions and was elected a life member of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was certified as an emergency medical technician and further supported the life-saving efforts of the Christiansburg Rescue Squad as an American Red Cross first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor; and

WHEREAS, during his years with the Christiansburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Kelly Walters was instrumental in forming the Floyd County Rescue Squad; later, he helped spearhead the founding of the Riner Volunteer Rescue Squad, where he served as a charter and life member; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was highly involved with the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS), twice serving as the District 7 vice president, as president of the organization from 1985 to 1987, and as a member of many of the association's committees; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was a founding and longtime member of the VAVRS Rescue College Committee, which for the past 40 years has overseen the organization's teaching of basic, intermediate, and advanced skills, such as rope rescue, technical rescue, and emergency vehicle operation; and

WHEREAS, to honor his years of dedicated service on behalf of VAVRS, the association's membership elected Kelly Walters a life member in 1979; as an indication of his outsized impact on the emergency medical services community of the Commonwealth, he was elected by his peers to the Virginia Rescue and Life Saving Hall of Fame in September 2003; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was the first full-time paid rescue squad captain employed by the Town of Christiansburg and served in that position for 10 years; prior to his retirement, he responded to over 1,000 calls per year for seven consecutive years, and in two of those years he responded to over 1,300 calls, or an average of four calls per day; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters supported his community's emergency preparedness admirably as a member of its Fire and Rescue Task Force and the Christiansburg and Montgomery County Emergency Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters enjoyed hunting with his beagles and was a devoted member, officer, and board member of the Christiansburg Hunting Club, where for many years he offered wisdom and advice that was significant to the club's success; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2011, Kelly Walters was recognized by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for his 47 years of service to the citizens of the county; he received a commending resolution from the General Assembly during the 2016 Regular Session for his service with VAVRS; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was a devoted husband and caregiver to his wife, Virginia; during her illness, he devoted his time, talents, and love to care for her, putting her needs above his until her passing in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters will be profoundly missed by the emergency medical services community in and around Christiansburg, Riner, and Montgomery County, and will be remembered for, among other attributes, his serious demeanor, selfless compassion, and big heart; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Walters was more than a first responder; when members of his family or community needed assistance, he was always willing to lend a hand; he would regularly visit rescue squad members and coworkers who were in their senior years and confined to nursing homes; through his steadfast commitment to serving others, he was like family to many; and

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59 WHEREAS, preceded in death by his loving wife, Virginia, Kelly Walters will be fondly
60 remembered and dearly missed by his daughter, Nancy, and her family, and numerous other family
61 members and friends; now, therefore, be it

62 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
63 note with great sadness the loss of Kelly Brice Walters, a respected leader in Christiansburg and the
64 County of Montgomery, as well as in the wider emergency medical services community of the
65 Commonwealth; and, be it

66 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution
67 for presentation to the daughter of Kelly Brice Walters, Nancy, and the Riner Volunteer Rescue Squad
68 as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.