

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 503

Celebrating the life of Franklin Delano Robertson.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 11, 2021

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano Robertson, a respected attorney and leader in the mining industry who made countless contributions to the Grundy community, died on January 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, born in West Virginia, Franklin "Red" Robertson was raised in Kentucky and developed a passion for education at a young age; in his adolescence, he hitchhiked across the border to Virginia each day to take classes at Grundy High School; and

WHEREAS, Red Robertson subsequently graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), where he served as captain commander of the Corps of Cadets and was an original member of the Ut Prosim Society; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Red Robertson began a career in the mining industry with one of the last independent coal mine operators in Southwest Virginia; he became a partner at the engineering company Thompson and Litton in 1960 and held professional engineering licenses in three states; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Red Robertson received a law degree from the University of Virginia and became one of the preeminent coal lawyers in the United States, establishing the firm Robertson, Cecil, King & Pruitt; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1985, Red Robertson owned Knox Creek Coal Corporation and subsequently founded Robertson Enterprises; he established partnerships with other companies in the Commonwealth, West Virginia, and Illinois, becoming known as one of the most innovative and effective coal operators in the country; and

WHEREAS, Red Robertson was dedicated to supporting young people in and out of the classroom, coordinating local students' enrollment in SAT study courses, writing hundreds of recommendation letters for high school seniors, and founding the Grundy Wrestling Club to give young athletes opportunities to hone their skills; and

WHEREAS, Red Robertson also supported local educators by establishing the Buchanan County Apple Award for outstanding teachers, and he remained a proud and active alumnus of Virginia Tech throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, an exemplar of humility and kindness, Red Robertson made anonymous donations to hundreds of charitable organizations and fundraisers, asking to be named only as "a friend"; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Red Robertson enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as a member of Grundy Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Red Robertson's greatest joy in life was his beloved family, and he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Bobbie; his children, Shane, Tass, Brant, and Spring, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Franklin Delano Robertson; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Franklin Delano Robertson as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

ENROLLED

SR503ER