

## 2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

ENROLLED

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 711

*Commending Village Hardware.*

Agreed to by the Senate, August 5, 2021

WHEREAS, Village Hardware, owned by Larry Gray for 42 years from 1979 to 2021, has served the Mount Vernon community by offering a well-stocked, service-oriented resource for construction companies and local residents; and

WHEREAS, a native of New York, Larry Gray learned the construction trade from his father, and after relocating to the Commonwealth in 1979, he established Village Hardware in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center with two partners; and

WHEREAS, with its wide selection and commitment to personalized customer service, Village Hardware offered an alternative to big box stores and became the community's go-to destination for homeowners and professional builders as well as a beloved local landmark; and

WHEREAS, respected for his sincerity, vast expertise, and hands-on leadership, Larry Gray became the sole owner of the business in 1984; he often went above and beyond to not only help Village Hardware customers find the proper tools and equipment, but also find effective solutions for their projects, once even fabricating a unique screw to suit a customer's repair needs; and

WHEREAS, Larry Gray met his wife, Janet, at Village Hardware, and their children later worked in the family business as well; over the years, many other local youths worked their first job at Village Hardware, learning valuable life lessons and benefiting from the Gray family's character and work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Larry Gray and Village Hardware further gave back to the community by sponsoring Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association teams and supporting local schools, churches, and neighborhood events and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in planning his retirement, Larry Gray selected Aubuchon Hardware, a fourth-generation, family-owned hardware chain to uphold Village Hardware's legacy of passionate customer service and devotion to the community; incoming general manager Troy Richard is committed to maintaining the store's successful practices while implementing new services such as a rewards program and strengthening the store's computer system and online presence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Village Hardware hereby be commended for its decades of exceptional service to generations of Mount Vernon residents; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to Troy Richard, general manager of Village Hardware, and Larry and Janet Gray as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the business's many contributions to the community.

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