

2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 304

Celebrating the life of Franklin Esby Vehorn.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2022

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2022

WHEREAS, Franklin Esby Vehorn, an honorable veteran and accomplished sportswriter whose columns in the *Norfolk Ledger-Star* and the *Virginian-Pilot* informed and delighted readers for many years, died on June 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Franklin "Frank" Esby Vehorn served his country with courage and valor as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Frank Vehorn worked many years for the *Norfolk Ledger-Star* and later the *Virginian-Pilot*, covering area sports such as the American Basketball Association's Virginia Squires, Atlantic Coast Conference teams, and the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing; and

WHEREAS, Frank Vehorn's long and illustrious career in sports journalism included posts as reporter and editor at various papers in the Carolinas, and he was the author of *The Intimidator: The Dale Earnhardt Story: An Unauthorized Biography*; and

WHEREAS, Frank Vehorn was admired by readers and colleagues alike for the depth of his reporting and the quality of his writing; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the advancement of his industry, Frank Vehorn founded what would become the National Motorsports Press Association, serving as the organization's president for many years, and was a trusted and valued mentor to scores of younger reporters; and

WHEREAS, Frank Vehorn will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife, Esther; his children, Andrew, Steven, and Bill; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Franklin Esby Vehorn, famed chronicler of Norfolk-area sports whose incisive reporting brightened countless lives; 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 Franklin Esby Vehorn as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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