

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 787

Celebrating the life of Charles Kirtland.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2023
Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 2023

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland, an accomplished restaurateur and advocate and a beloved member of the Hampton Roads community, died in January 2023; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was born in San Antonio, Texas, to a United States Naval family and had lived in Bermuda, Illinois, California, Texas, and the Commonwealth before ultimately settling in Norfolk in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a successful entrepreneur, having gone from bartending to becoming the principal owner at Gershwin's, a fine dining restaurant in downtown Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was the chair of the board of directors at the LGBT Life Center in Norfolk, where he worked tirelessly to empower the LGBTQIA+ community and all people affected by human immunodeficiency virus by promoting health and wellness, strengthening families and communities, and providing transformative education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a founding member of the Stonewall Sports league in Norfolk, an LGBTQIA+, community-based, nonprofit sports organization founded in 2010 that strives to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations through organized sports; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a longtime volunteer and sponsor of Hampton Roads Pride and a staunch advocate for LGBTQIA+ equality; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by numerous 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 Charles Kirtland, a cherished member of the Hampton Roads community whose kindness and generosity touched 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 Charles Kirtland as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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