

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 793

Celebrating the life of Thomas Ellis Welch, Jr.

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

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 2023

WHEREAS, Thomas Ellis Welch, Jr., an honorable veteran and treasured member of the Norfolk community, who ensured the safety of students at Norfolk Public Schools for many years, died on January 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Welch attended Booker T. Washington High School before enlisting in the United States Army and serving the country with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, as a specialist sixth class for the United States Army, Thomas Welch saw action in Vietnam, and he had many amazing stories of his time there, especially about his helicopter; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Welch received many awards and certifications during his time in the United States Army, including his aviation license, which allowed him to fly his beloved helicopter; and

WHEREAS, after the Vietnam War, Thomas Welch returned home, married Evelyn Johnson in 1967, and went to work for the Norfolk Public Schools security department; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Welch served for 40 years as a security officer at schools such as James Monroe Elementary School, Azalea Gardens Middle School, and many others, contributing greatly to the safety and well-being of students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn, Thomas Welch will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his younger siblings, Elizabeth and Stephen, 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 Thomas Ellis Welch, Jr., a cherished member of the Norfolk community; 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 Thomas Ellis Welch, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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