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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 189

Offered February 24, 2023

Celebrating the life of George Robert Smith, Jr., MD.

Patron—Suetterlein

Unanimous consent to introduce

WHEREAS, George Robert Smith, Jr., MD, a country doctor in Shawsville who touched countless lives throughout Montgomery County, died on February 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Robert "Bob" Smith served his country as a member of the United States Navy, then attended the University of North Carolina and Harvard Medical School; and

WHEREAS, while completing his residency at what was then the Medical College of Virginia, Bob Smith and his wife, Mildred, passed through Shawsville and asked if the town needed a doctor; they subsequently established a medical practice, the Alleghany Clinic, in the former Meadow Brook Home on U.S. 460; and

WHEREAS, Bob Smith convinced a friend and fellow doctor, Clarence W. Taylor, Jr., MD, to join the practice in 1957; the Smith and Taylor families later built homes nearby on a road now named Pair O'Docs Lane; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his 42-year career as a family physician, Bob Smith treated patients in need at all hours of the day, seven days a week, and commonly made house calls, serving different generations of the same local families; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Bob Smith began construction on Meadowbrook Nursing Home, which served older residents of the community for decades and became Montgomery County's largest employer; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Bob Smith established the Mountain Valley Charitable Foundation, which awarded scholarships to aspiring nurses; after Meadowbrook Nursing Home closed in 2001, the foundation led efforts to repurpose the building as the Meadowbrook Center, which houses a library, a wellness center, a museum, an art gallery, and the Dr. George R. Smith, Jr., Community Center; and

WHEREAS, with Bob Smith as president, the Mountain Valley Charitable Foundation also transformed an old fire station into a food pantry and thrift shop; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Bob Smith helped found the Shawsville Rescue Squad and the Shawsville Ruritan Club; and

WHEREAS, Bob Smith will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 73 years, Mildred; his children, George III, Julia, Mary Beth, and Linda, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and former patients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of George Robert Smith, Jr., MD, a pillar of the Shawsville community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of George Robert Smith, Jr., MD, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

SR189