

1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 372

Offered January 19, 1999

Celebrating the life of John R. Diedrich.

Patrons—Mims; Delegates: Black and May

WHEREAS, John Ruffing Diedrich, a former Leesburg postmaster who was responsible for the construction of the post office on Catoctin Circle in Leesburg, died on December 24, 1998 at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, born in Waverly, Virginia in 1912, John Diedrich was a graduate of the University of Richmond, where he played baseball and football, and was co-captain of the football team; and

WHEREAS, John Diedrich turned down a contract to play professional baseball in order to become a teacher, moving to Loudon County in 1935 to teach at Purcellville Elementary School where he later became principal; and

WHEREAS, in 1939 John Diedrich moved to Leesburg High School where he was assistant principal, teacher and coach until 1951, excluding four years during which he served his country as an officer in the U.S. Navy in World War II; and

WHEREAS, appointed as Leesburg postmaster by President Harry Truman in 1951, John Diedrich served his community in that position until his retirement in 1977; and

WHEREAS, an active Rotarian, John Diedrich was a former president of the Leesburg Rotary Club and received every honor the Rotary Club had to offer, including being named as the first-ever Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, an avid and regular tennis player, John Diedrich maintained his love of sports until his death, as evidenced by the Leesburg Rotary Club dedication of its New Year's Day 10 K Resolution Race and 4 K fun run to him; and

WHEREAS, John Diedrich was a beloved member of the Leesburg community and an inspiration to his former students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly note with sadness the passing of John Ruffing Diedrich, an All-American athlete and model citizen; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of John R. Diedrich as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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