

2003 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 499

On the death of Roy B. Martin, Jr.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 20, 2003
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2003

WHEREAS, Roy B. Martin, Jr., former mayor of Norfolk and member of the Norfolk City Council for more than 20 years, died on May 20, 2002; and

WHEREAS, a native of Norfolk, Roy Martin was a graduate of Maury High School, attended the Norfolk Division of William and Mary, now known as Old Dominion University, and later received a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, after serving his nation in the United States Navy during World War II, Roy Martin returned to his hometown, established a career in food brokerage, and became owner of Foote Brothers and Company; and

WHEREAS, Roy Martin was appointed to fill a vacancy on City Council in 1953 by legendary political leader and Mayor W. Fred Duckworth, thus becoming the council's youngest member; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Martin established his political courage by resolutely casting the lone vote against closing Norfolk public schools during Massive Resistance in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Roy Martin succeeded Fred Duckworth as Mayor in 1962 and ran City Council meetings with characteristic energy and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, providing decisive leadership during a time of tremendous growth, Roy Martin led the Norfolk City Council in a fair and judicious manner, and as "the bricks and mortar" mayor was instrumental in bringing the Chrysler Museum, the MacArthur Memorial, the Scope, and other ambitious inner-city redevelopment projects to the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, Roy Martin received the Outstanding Alumni Award by Old Dominion University in 1964, and was honored by King Baudouin I and the Belgian government as an officer in the Order of the Crown in 1969; and

WHEREAS, a member of the United States Conference of Mayors, Roy Martin served on the committee on community development and was selected by the distinguished council to serve as its president in 1974; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant and community volunteer, Roy Martin served as a member of the board of directors of the American Red Cross, president of the Mayor's Youth Commission, president of the Virginia Municipal League, commander of American Legion Post 300, to name a few of the numerous civic and charitable organizations he served and supported; and

WHEREAS, even in retirement, Roy Martin continued to demonstrate his deep commitment and love for the City of Norfolk by serving as a goodwill ambassador and inspirational community leader; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly note with sadness the great loss of an outstanding, dedicated public servant, Roy B. Martin, Jr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Roy B. Martin, Jr. as an expression of the high regard in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly and the citizens of Norfolk.

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