

## 2006 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 172

Offered January 12, 2006

*Commending Samuel B. Witt III.*

Patrons—Lingamfelter, Janis, Albo, Alexander, Amundson, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Bell, Brink, Byron, Cline, Cosgrove, Cox, Crockett-Stark, Dudley, Fralin, Frederick, Gear, Gilbert, Griffith, Hamilton, Hargrove, Hogan, Hugo, Hull, Hurt, Iaquinto, Ingram, Joannou, Jones, S.C., Kilgore, Lewis, Lohr, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., McQuigg, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Phillips, Purkey, Putney, Rapp, Rust, Saxman, Scott, E.T., Shannon, Sherwood, Wardrup, Ware, R.L., Welch, Wittman and Wright; Senator: Norment

WHEREAS, Samuel B. Witt III, member and retiring president of the board of visitors of the Virginia Military Institute, is recognized for 11 years of extraordinary service to the board, the students of the Virginia Military Institute, and the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, while at the Virginia Military Institute, Samuel Witt was a cadet captain and commander of Company D, as well as a managing editor and editor-in-chief of *The Cadet*; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Witt earned a bachelor's degree in English from the Virginia Military Institute in 1958, served on active duty with the United States Air Force 38th Tactical Missile Wing in Germany from 1958 to 1961, and was discharged as a captain in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Witt received his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1964 and attended the Harvard Business School Senior International Management Program in Switzerland in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Witt served as a trustee and member of the executive committee of the VMI Foundation, Inc., from 1988 to 1994 and was appointed to the Board of Visitors in 1994 by Governor Allen, serving three four-year terms and presiding as president since 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Samuel Witt's excellent leadership and vast legal, business, and governmental experience have been valuable to the VMI Board of Visitors and the Corps of Cadets; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Witt is an enthusiastic member of the executive committee of the Reveille Campaign: A Call to Excel, a carefully considered program to ensure that a VMI education will be as valuable in the future as it has been in its past, as well as a passionate advocate and spokesman for Vision 2039, a master plan aimed at improving university programs and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence at his alma mater, Samuel Witt headed the search committee for the 14th university superintendent, encouraged student and alumni participation in the legislative process, and spearheaded the rejuvenation of the board's committee structure and elevated involvement in key policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Witt has worked as an executive and general counsel for CI/Girdler International, Ltd., General Mills Europe, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco International, and RJR Nabisco, Inc., and is currently the senior vice president for Stateside Associates, Inc., of Washington, D.C., a state government relations and issues management firm he cofounded in 1987; and

WHEREAS, throughout a long and prestigious career of personal and professional accomplishment, Samuel B. Witt III has been an admired and respected leader of the board of visitors of the Virginia Military Institute for 11 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend an outstanding Virginian, Samuel B. Witt III for his devotion to the Virginia Military Institute and especially for his commitment to young people as the future leaders of the Commonwealth and the nation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Samuel B. Witt III as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for his future endeavors and gratitude for his valuable service.

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