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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 265

Offered February 3, 2006

*Celebrating the life of James Eugene Maloney.*

Patrons—Rapp, Barlow and Hamilton; Senator: Norment

WHEREAS, James Eugene "Jimmy" Maloney, extraordinary entrepreneur and founder of the Williamsburg Pottery, died July 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Maloney, born April 5, 1912, was a confident, no-nonsense, self-made man who epitomized the rags-to-riches story; and

WHEREAS, with a vision and an industrious temperament, Jimmy Maloney started a meager business in 1938 on a half-acre on Route 60 that he purchased for \$150 for the land and \$10 for the deed; there Jimmy Maloney built a crude workshop with a room in back for his living quarters and fashioned a simple kiln where he could create pots, mugs, and inkwells from the clay he dug from the banks of the Chickahominy River; and

WHEREAS, on his travels selling pottery, Jimmy Maloney found numerous other interesting items to sell and as his wares grew so did the number of buildings he needed to accommodate them and over time the Pottery became a shopping sensation; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous boon to the Williamsburg Pottery occurred in 1956 when Jimmy Maloney was honored by Colonial Williamsburg as the official manufacturer of 18th century saltglaze reproduction pieces, and the pottery line continues to be a popular and lucrative part of the business; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-1970s, the Williamsburg Pottery continued to prosper until it traversed the railroad tracks and grew to occupy well over 200 acres on Route 60 and 646 in Lightfoot; and

WHEREAS, thirty years ahead of the outlet malls, Jimmy Maloney's pottery factory and discount houses became Virginia's largest retail operation in a single location and one of the largest of its kind, under one ownership, in the nation and was supplied by warehouses in four states; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Maloney was admired and respected by business and community leaders for his economic foresight, keen business acumen and tremendous work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Maloney's Williamsburg Pottery provides interesting wares and good value, and busloads of shoppers flock to the Pottery to find treasures and bargains; his creativity and inspiration gave birth to a landmark attraction throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Maloney was active in the Williamsburg community and loved competition, especially William and Mary athletics; he was an ardent supporter of the college and a generous community benefactor, supporting numerous local causes, most often anonymously; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Jimmy Maloney donated 32 acres near Norge to Child Development Resources and the Peninsula YMCA, and in 1989 he donated nearly three acres to the York County Fire Department for a new station on Lightfoot Road; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 Jimmy Maloney was honored with The College of William and Mary's Prentis Award and was the first recipient of James City County's John Smith Award; and

WHEREAS, often donning an old sun visor and well-worn sneakers, Jimmy Maloney was an unassuming, forthright, and very rare individual, who will be missed by his family, his numerous friends and business associates, and the several generations of families who visit the City of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Pottery; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of an exceptional visionary and fine Virginian, James Eugene Maloney; 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 James Eugene Maloney as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

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