

## 2006 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 524

Offered March 6, 2006

*Commending G. John Avoli for his service as mayor of Staunton.*

Patrons—Saxman, Cline, Hurt, Landes, Lohr and Marshall, D.W.; Senator: Hanger

WHEREAS, G. John Avoli immigrated to the United States from Italy with his family when he was 10 years old; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his B.A. from the University of Richmond, John Avoli, with his wife Lynn, moved to Staunton and worked as a teacher and football coach at Wilson Memorial High School, later becoming principal of Stuarts Draft High School and principal/director of Valley Vocational Technical Center, where he supervised the construction of a 60,000 square foot addition and the implementation of the Governor's School of Math and Science; and

WHEREAS, John Avoli was elected to the Staunton City Council in 1990 and has been reelected three consecutive times, but has decided not to run for reelection in 2006; and

WHEREAS, since 1992 John Avoli has served seven consecutive terms as mayor; and

WHEREAS, during John Avoli's tenure as mayor, the downtown area of Staunton has undergone a successful revitalization, with implementation of the Virginia Main Street program and the "Big Dig," which has resulted in many improvements, including the presence of a variety of shops, restaurants, and entertainment facilities, the New Street Garage, the renovation of the YMCA for use as a condominium complex, and the development of the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center as a public-private venture; and

WHEREAS, under John Avoli's leadership, the city council successfully attracted Shenandoah Shakespeare, an innovative theater company, which is planning to recreate the 1614 Globe Theatre in downtown Staunton; and

WHEREAS, the City of Staunton has been active during John Avoli's tenure in creating regional cooperation, resulting in a regional jail and a juvenile detention facility, as well as other cooperative governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the city council and mayor have also worked to improve the city's recreational facilities, schools, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, as John Avoli leaves city council and the office of mayor, there are many ongoing plans for the continued development of the city and the enrichment of the lives of the citizens of Staunton; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Mayor G. John Avoli for his many years of work on behalf of the citizens of the City of Staunton; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to G. John Avoli as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his achievements and congratulations on a job well done.

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