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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 81

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 10, 2006

*Celebrating the life of Bonnie Neff Hoover.*

Patrons—Lohr, Landes, and Saxman

WHEREAS, Bonnie Neff Hoover of Broadway, respected community leader and longtime president and owner of Neff Lumber Mills, Inc., died September 13, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Hoover earned a bachelor's degree from James Madison University in 1948 and remained active at the University, serving as a member of the board of visitors from 1980 to 1983 and as vice-rector in 1982 and 1983 and she also attended Averett College where she was honored as the Outstanding Alumnus of 1984; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, Bonnie Hoover was the dynamic CEO of Neff Lumber Mills, Inc., a company started by her father, Blair Neff, and her grandfather, Newton Neff, in 1934; and

WHEREAS, a successful and gifted businesswoman, Bonnie Hoover was a trailblazer in the male-dominated timber industry, was the first woman to receive the Businessperson of the Year award from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce and was the first woman to serve on the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 Bonnie Hoover was honored by the Virginia Forestry Association by receiving its prestigious Man of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, committed to the growth and development of Rockingham County and the Commonwealth, Bonnie Hoover was a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business in 1980 and 1995; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Hoover was a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9660 Ladies Auxiliary; an active member of the Business Executive Advisory Council, the John Clayton Society, Greater Madison Inc., the Russell Weaver Society, the Bluestone Society, and the Friends of Carrier Library; and secretary of the board of directors of Rockingham Memorial Hospital in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Hoover was loyal to the Republican Party but always considered, in business and in politics, what was best for her neighbors and her community; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Hoover served as a member of the Advisory Council to Congressman Bob Goodlatte of the 6th District and was legislative assistant to two House of Delegates of Virginia members; and

WHEREAS, remembered for her great love of sports and her innate ability to assist and befriend others, Bonnie Hoover will be missed by her family, the congregation of Sunset Drive United Methodist Church, and her numerous friends and admirers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of a fine Virginian, Bonnie Neff Hoover; 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 Bonnie Neff Hoover as an expression of the respect in which her memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

HJR1