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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 64

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 10, 2006

*Commending John H. Chichester.*

Patron—Norment

WHEREAS, John H. Chichester, President pro tempore of the Senate of Virginia, is the distinguished recipient of the 2005 Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award and recognized as a revered statesman of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation; and

WHEREAS, established in 1996, the prestigious award, the nation's top state legislative honor, is sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the State Leadership Foundation and is bestowed annually on an outstanding leader who is committed to strengthening and protecting the institution of the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislatures of the states, commonwealths, and territories, providing policymakers with a wealth of resources and opportunities to share ideas and possible solutions to pressing state issues; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader of tremendous integrity, John Chichester is admired for his gift of diplomacy; his adroitness, even in times of adversity, at unifying the numerous voices and forces of the legislative body; and the great respect he has for the diverse political convictions of his fellow General Assembly members; and

WHEREAS, John Chichester has been a member of the Senate of Virginia since 1978 and President pro tempore since 2000; he is also chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, John Chichester has used his vast experience and leadership to enable the Senate to consider a more long-term approach to the management of the Commonwealth's fiscal well-being and future; and

WHEREAS, John Chichester is a key participant on numerous state legislative studies, commissions, and boards, but one of his most notable achievements is his contribution to national leadership of the state legislatures; he chaired both the Southern Legislative Conference in 1994 and the Council of State Governments in 2002; and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence in state government, John Chichester exemplifies, in his words and in his deeds, the ideals of honesty, responsibility, and a steadfast belief in the value of democracy and the political system; and

WHEREAS, John Chichester's superb leadership on behalf of the state legislatures affords high regard to the Senate of Virginia and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate an outstanding statesman, John H. Chichester, on his 2005 Excellence in State Leadership Award by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the State Leadership Foundation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to John H. Chichester as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his extraordinary service to the Senate of Virginia, his fellow legislators in the General Assembly and across the nation, and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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