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1 ## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5053
2 Offered May 10, 2006
3 *Celebrating the life of the Honorable Asbury Christian Compton.*
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Patrons—Waddell, Abbitt, Albo, Alexander, Amundson, Armstrong, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Bell, Bowling, Brink, Bulova, Byron, Callahan, Caputo, Carrico, Cline, Cole, Cosgrove, Cox, Crockett-Stark, Dance, Dudley, Ebbin, Eisenberg, Englin, Fralin, Frederick, Gear, Gilbert, Griffith, Hall, Hamilton, Hargrove, Hogan, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Hull, Hurt, Iaquinto, Ingram, Janis, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Jones, S.C., Kilgore, Landes, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Lohr, Marsden, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., May, McClellan, McEachin, McQuigg, Melvin, Miller, Moran, Morgan, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Orrock, Peace, Phillips, Plum, Poisson, Purkey, Putney, Rapp, Reid, Rust, Saxman, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Shannon, Sherwood, Shuler, Sickles, Spruill, Suit, Tata, Toscano, Tyler, Valentine, Ward, Wardrup, Ware, O., Ware, R.L., Watts, Welch, Wittman and Wright

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6 WHEREAS, Asbury Christian Compton of Richmond, esteemed citizen and retired Senior Justice of
7 the Supreme Court of Virginia, died on April 9, 2006; and
8 WHEREAS, Christian Compton, a native of Hanover County, was born October 24, 1929, grew up
9 in the Town of Ashland, and attended Ashland High School; and
10 WHEREAS, Christian Compton earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1950 and a law degree in 1953
11 from Washington and Lee University and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the
12 University in 1975; and
13 WHEREAS, Christian Compton served his country in the United States Navy on active duty as a
14 commissioned officer from 1953 to 1956, and continued his service in the United States Navy Reserve
15 until 1961; and
16 WHEREAS, Christian Compton was in practice with the law firm of May, Garrett, Miller, Newman
17 and Compton in Richmond from 1957 to 1966; and
18 WHEREAS, an excellent attorney, Christian Compton was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Law
19 and Equity Court of the City of Richmond on July 1, 1966, and was elected for a regular term in 1971;
20 and
21 WHEREAS, in September 1974, Judge Compton was appointed by Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr.,
22 and elected by the General Assembly to serve on the Supreme Court of Virginia, serving until his
23 retirement in February 2000, when he began service as a Senior Justice; and
24 WHEREAS, during his time on the bench, Justice Compton built an enviable reputation for his
25 exceptional legal acumen and vast experience and earned the highest admiration and respect from
26 colleagues, attorneys and courthouse staff, and the citizens of the Commonwealth; and
27 WHEREAS, Justice Compton gave generously of his time and immense talents to countless
28 professional, civic, and state organizations, serving as a member of the board of trustees of Washington
29 and Lee University and the Collegiate Schools; as president of the Washington and Lee Alumni
30 Association, Inc.; and as an active member of the American Bar Association, Virginia State Bar
31 Association, and Bar Association of the City of Richmond; and
32 WHEREAS, concerned about the well-being of his community, Justice Compton was an active and
33 faithful member of Trinity United Methodist Church and its many missions for persons in need; and
34 WHEREAS, Justice Compton will be fondly remembered for his love of the law and his generous
35 and amiable nature and will be missed by his devoted wife of 52 years, Betty Stephenson Compton, his
36 three daughters and their families, his eight beloved grandsons, and his numerous friends and admirers;
37 now, therefore, be it
38 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
39 note with great sadness the loss of an outstanding public servant and fine Virginian, the Honorable
40 Asbury Christian Compton; and, be it
41 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
42 for presentation to the family of the Honorable Asbury Christian Compton as an expression of the high
43 regard in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.