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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 419

Offered February 6, 2009

*Celebrating the life of the Honorable Wade St. Clair Coates.*

Patron—Puckett

WHEREAS, the Honorable Wade St. Clair Coates of Tazewell, esteemed citizen of the Commonwealth and longtime General District Court judge for the 29th Judicial District of Virginia, died on November 19, 2008; and

WHEREAS, born on June 8, 1919, the son of the late Thomas Felix Coates and Ella Wooding Carter Coates, Wade St. Clair Coates received his undergraduate degree from Bluefield College and earned his law degree from T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, while at law school, World War II erupted and Wade St. Clair Coates enlisted and honorably served his country in the United States Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Wade St. Clair Coates finished law school and joined the John Boggess law firm in Tazewell; and

WHEREAS, Wade St. Clair Coates married Virginia Johnson and the couple had three wonderful daughters, Elizabeth "Betty," Katherine, and Anne; and

WHEREAS, Wade St. Clair Coates was elected Commonwealth's attorney in 1955 and served until being appointed to the bench in 1977 as judge of the General District Court for the 29th Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, Judge Coates retired as a full-time judge in 1984, but continued to serve his fellow citizens of Tazewell as a substitute judge for many years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time on the bench, Judge Coates served all the citizens of the Commonwealth, in matters great and small, with his unique blend of humor, intellect, common sense, and commitment to equal justice for all; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life and career, Judge Coates gave generously of his time and immense talents to many civic organizations, including as a charter member of the Tazewell County Sportsman Club in Burkes Garden, as a member of the Tazewell American Legion and the Tazewell Lions Club, and as a Paul Harris Fellow of the Tazewell Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Judge Coates was a faithful member of the Stras Memorial Episcopal Church in Tazewell and active in the church's many missions in the community; and

WHEREAS, Judge Coates loved the outdoors, was an avid fisherman and gardener, and loved to share what he grew, especially his pumpkins; and

WHEREAS, Judge Coates will be fondly remembered for his kind and generous nature and greatly missed by his daughters, their families, including his two grandchildren and step-granddaughter; his numerous other loving family members, colleagues, and friends; and the citizens of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the passing of a fine jurist and outstanding Virginian, the Honorable Wade St. Clair Coates; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Honorable Wade St. Clair Coates as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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