

099156250

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 503

Offered February 23, 2009

*Commending the Honorable J. Samuel Johnston, Jr.*

Patron—Hurt

WHEREAS, the Honorable J. Samuel Johnston, Jr., served the 24th Judicial Circuit with great distinction as a Campbell County District and Circuit Court Judge from 1977 until his retirement on June 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, a native of Alabama, J. Samuel Johnston received a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law; and

WHEREAS, J. Samuel Johnston practiced law for five years before being appointed a judge of the Campbell County General District Court at the age of 30, making him the youngest judge in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Judge Johnston moved to Campbell County Circuit Court as the youngest circuit court judge in the state, where he ably served until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, as a circuit court judge, Judge Johnston heard cases from traffic offenses to capital murders and was known for his thoughtfulness, fairness, and commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, during his long tenure, Judge Johnston presided over hundreds of trials that changed thousands of lives; and

WHEREAS, Judge Johnston remains active in retirement, serving as a substitute judge for the 24th Judicial Circuit and being part of a statewide mediation group to help the judicial system mediate disputes; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time on the bench, Judge Johnston served the citizens of Campbell County with fairness, common sense, and commitment to equal justice for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Honorable J. Samuel Johnston, Jr., for his dedication to Virginia's judicial system, his profession, and the citizens of Campbell County and the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Honorable J. Samuel Johnston, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his wisdom and fairness in administering justice in Virginia and best wishes for a joyful retirement.

INTRODUCED

51503