

2011 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 695

Offered January 17, 2011

Celebrating the life of Grover Ralph Eakin.

Patrons—Cleaveland and Habeeb

WHEREAS, Grover Ralph Eakin, a devoted family man and loyal servant of the Commonwealth, died on December 21, 2010; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in Craig County, G. "Ralph" Eakin played professional minor league baseball in the Mountain State League in 1937, 1938, and 1939; and

WHEREAS, at 6 foot, 1 inch tall and 195 pounds, Ralph Eakin pitched for 92 games with the Bluefield Blue-Grays during his three-season career; and

WHEREAS, in 1939 Trooper Eakin joined the proud ranks of the Virginia State Police, working as a State Trooper in Roanoke and the surrounding counties during World War II, safeguarding Highland County in the 1950s and 1960s, returning to Roanoke County for nine years, and patrolling in Botetourt County before retiring in 1974; and

WHEREAS, with a steady arm and a naturally keen eye, Trooper Eakin competed on the Virginia State Police Pistol Team and served as a member of the first Virginia State Police Sniper Team; and

WHEREAS, married to Malen, the love of his life, for 56 years, Ralph Eakin cherished his daughter, Kellan, and was proud of his three sons, Lenden, Lowell, and Samuel; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement, Ralph Eakin enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and relished fishing and hunting in the great outdoors of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, remembered as one of Virginia's finest, Ralph Eakin was interred with honors by the Virginia State Police Honor Guard; and

WHEREAS, survived by his wife, Malen, and his four children, Kellan, Lenden, Lowell, and Samuel, and their families, Ralph Eakin will be remembered fondly by his family, his friends, and his fellow state troopers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Grover Ralph Eakin, devoted family man and loyal servant of the Commonwealth; 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 Grover Ralph Eakin as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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