

11103446D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 701

Offered January 17, 2011

Commending Stephen L. Oesch.

Patron—May

WHEREAS, Stephen L. Oesch, an admired contributor to auto safety in the Commonwealth and around the nation, retired after a distinguished 40-year career; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Stephen "Steve" Oesch went to work for the Center for Auto Safety, an organization created by Ralph Nader to keep consumers informed about auto safety; and

WHEREAS, in 1971 Steve Oesch moved to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; he worked in the communications and general counsel's office, while earning a law degree from Georgetown University Law School; and

WHEREAS, a respected expert on highway safety, Steve Oesch then spent 10 years at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, where he served as a staff attorney and eventually worked as deputy assistant chief counsel for rulemaking; and

WHEREAS, admired for his keen grasp of the intricacies of the law, Steve Oesch was instrumental in drafting and implementing numerous federal highway and motor vehicle safety standards, including the automatic restraint requirements that as of January 1, 2009, have saved an estimated 28,000 or more people; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of exemplary contributions to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Steve Oesch returned to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in 1987, where he filled many vital roles, including that of general counsel to the acting director of communications for insurer relations; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Steve Oesch's expertise and experience have significantly influenced auto safety in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, an able administrator, Steve Oesch oversaw the financial planning of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Vehicle Research Center in Ruckersville, which is a unique facility where researchers can test vehicle crashworthiness and conduct other research pertinent to auto safety; and

WHEREAS, Steve Oesch has welcomed numerous members of the General Assembly, representatives of safety organizations, and law-enforcement personnel to the Vehicle Research Center, where he has helped explain the vital research conducted there; and

WHEREAS, Steve Oesch has generously shared his time and expertise as a volunteer with DRIVE SMART Virginia, a public-private partnership that works to create the safest possible roadways for Virginians, serving as treasurer for six years; and

WHEREAS, through his work with DRIVE SMART, Steve Oesch has been a familiar presence before General Assembly committee meetings and at local hearings, testifying on numerous public policy issues including automated enforcement, safety belt use laws, alcohol-impaired driving, teen driving issues, and child passenger safety; and

WHEREAS, Steve Oesch has enjoyed a remarkable career marked by influential and lasting service which has helped make the Commonwealth's and the nation's roads a safer place for drivers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Stephen L. Oesch for his distinguished auto safety career on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Stephen L. Oesch as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and appreciation for his contributions to auto safety in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation.

INTRODUCED

HJ701