

2011 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5070

Offered June 9, 2011

Celebrating the life of Sergeant First Class Wyatt Hampton Belton.

Patrons—McQuinn, BaCote, Brink, Bulova, Carr, Howell, A.T., McClellan, Miller, P.J., Scott, J.M., Spruill, Toscano and Tyler; Senator: McEachin

Unanimous consent to introduce

WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant First Class Wyatt Hampton Belton, who died on March 31, 1951, while a prisoner of war in North Korea, was brought back to his family in Richmond and laid to rest with full military honors on May 21, 2011; and

WHEREAS, as an energetic and adventurous young man, Wyatt "Hampton" Belton desired to serve his country and travel the world; he enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Japan when North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, Sergeant Belton fought to drive North Korean forces out of South Korea; he saw intense action and received a bullet wound to the hand but returned to his unit; and

WHEREAS, in November 1950, Chinese forces joined with North Korea and launched a major offensive that drove American forces south; during the fighting, Sergeant Belton was taken as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans; and

WHEREAS, an extremely strong and courageous soldier, Sergeant Belton passed away four months later; and

WHEREAS, listed as missing in action for almost three decades, the United States Army was able to confirm Sergeant Belton's death in the 1980s, but it took several more decades of hard work and dedication by skilled diplomats, military personnel, and family members to identify and bring Sergeant Belton's earthly remains home for burial; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Belton's family made great sacrifices, enduring distress and uncertainty for over 60 years as they pondered the fate of their beloved son and brother; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Belton's death is a solemn reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of Americans who serve in our armed forces overseas and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the death of a courageous and patriotic Virginian, Sergeant First Class Wyatt Hampton Belton; 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 Sergeant First Class Wyatt Hampton Belton as an expression of the General Assembly's profound respect for his memory and his and his family's sacrifices.

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