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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 244

Offered January 23, 2012

Celebrating the life of the Honorable Billie Meriwether Millner.

Patrons—Yancey, BaCote and Watson; Senator: Miller, J.C.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Billie Meriwether Millner, a distinguished attorney who served as vice mayor of Newport News and as a substitute judge for the General District Court of Newport News, died on December 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of Newport News, Billie Millner graduated from Newport News High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Hampden-Sydney College, before proudly serving his country in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge, Billie Millner returned to his studies, attending the University of Virginia School of Law; a recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion, he also served as the "mayor" of Copley Hill; and

WHEREAS, Billie Millner began his exemplary legal career in Greenville, South Carolina, before returning to his hometown and joining what would become the law firm of Marshall, Blalock, Garner, and Millner; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 Billie Millner joined Jones, Blechman, Woltz, and Kelly and practiced law with great attention to detail and genuine commitment to his clients until his passing; and

WHEREAS, a substitute judge for the General District Court of Newport News, Billie Millner presided with great integrity, fairness, and commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, a brilliant attorney, Billie Millner provided strong leadership to his profession, serving as president of the Newport News Bar Association and as a leader in the movement to integrate the Bar; and

WHEREAS, Billie Millner strongly believed in the equality of all people and, as a member of the James River Country Club, encouraged a policy of membership for all individuals regardless of race or religion; and

WHEREAS, a firm advocate of education, Billie Millner served as president of the board of trustees for Hampton Roads Academy and secretary of the board of visitors at Christopher Newport University; and

WHEREAS, as vice mayor of the City of Newport News, Billie Millner worked alongside city officials, local government employees, and residents to develop Oyster Point and downtown Newport News; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Billie Millner provided wise counsel and insight as a commissioner of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Conference for Community Justice, now the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, honored Billie Millner for his lifetime of humanitarian efforts with a 2007 Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, a true Virginia gentleman, Billie Millner will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 60 years, Anne; children, Edward, Meriwether, Margie, and Daniel, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; 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 a distinguished attorney and humanitarian, the Honorable Billie Meriwether Millner; 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 the Honorable Billie Meriwether Millner as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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