

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 351

Offered February 10, 2012

Celebrating the life of James Basis.

Patrons—Dance, Cox, M.K. and Ingram

WHEREAS, James Basis of Prince George County, owner of the popular Jimmy's Grille restaurant in Petersburg for many years, died on January 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, James "Jimmy" Basis immigrated to the United States from Greece, settling in Petersburg in 1959; he opened his first restaurant in downtown Petersburg and operated it for 14 years before relocating to Goodrich Avenue and starting Jimmy's Grille in 1971; and

WHEREAS, some customers of Jimmy's Grille have eaten at the restaurant for more than 25 years; it was more than the delicious food that attracted them—many of the loyal patrons claimed Jimmy Basis and his wife, Frances, as longtime friends; and

WHEREAS, one way Jimmy Basis made Jimmy's Grille special was to personally welcome and chat with his guests, shaking hands with his numerous friends as they entered the restaurant, or, if he was busy, greeting diners from a window into the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Basis' entrepreneurial spirit was evident throughout the Tri-Cities; he owned a number of small businesses and restaurants and his success in those endeavors, coupled with his hard work, made Jimmy Basis an outstanding example of one who had achieved the American dream; and

WHEREAS, a man of strong faith and a supporter of both his adopted and native countries, Jimmy Basis was a member of St. Elpis Greek Orthodox Church, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Richmond, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, and the Evrytanian Association of America; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Basis will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Frances; his daughters, Stacy and Sandy and their families; numerous other family members; many longtime customers of his restaurants; and friends in the United States and Greece; 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 an esteemed resident and businessman, James Basis; 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 James Basis as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory and appreciation for his many contributions to his community.

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