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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 249

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 12, 2015

Celebrating the life of Dennis Owen Burnett.

Patrons—Hanger and Obenshain; Delegates: Bell, Richard P., Landes and Wilt

WHEREAS, Dennis Owen Burnett, a man whose enthusiasm, energy, and vision were focused on fostering a healthy economy for the Shenandoah Valley, and a friend to all who knew him, died on October 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Waynesboro, Dennis Burnett graduated from Fort Defiance High School and attended Blue Ridge Community College; earlier in his career he was deputy director of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, and had been an executive with Colgan Air, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Dennis Burnett, who lived in Staunton, was executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership; he had spent most of his professional life in business and economic development and was a tireless, upbeat, and visionary promoter of the area; and

WHEREAS, before starting work at the Shenandoah Valley Partnership in 2013, Dennis Burnett had become the first director of economic development for Augusta County; in his fourth year as director, the county gained more than 330 jobs and \$110.9 million in business investment; and

WHEREAS, a longtime supporter of the community, Dennis Burnett was involved with the United Way of Greater Augusta, the Rotary Club of Staunton-Augusta County, the Virginia Economic Developers Association, and he recently had received a gubernatorial appointment to the Virginia Manufacturing Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Burnett will be remembered for his exuberance, ability to motivate and lead others, and unceasing dedication to ensuring a healthy and growing economy for the people and businesses of the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Burnett will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Cynthia; his father, Vernon; many other family members; and a multitude of friends and colleagues from throughout the Shenandoah Valley; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Dennis Owen Burnett, a dedicated public servant who strove to make the Shenandoah Valley a vibrant and healthy place for all who live there; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Dennis Owen Burnett as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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