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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 482

Offered March 7, 2016

*Celebrating the life of Gregory Douglas Morrell.*

Patron—O'Quinn

WHEREAS, Gregory Douglas Morrell of Bristol, Tennessee, a dedicated disability advocate, a devoted son and brother, and a passionate sports enthusiast, died on April 27, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Gregory "Greg" Douglas Morrell was an alumnus of East Tennessee State University; he worked for most of his life in Abingdon and was a prominent leader in the disability community; and

WHEREAS, Greg Morrell sustained a spinal cord injury while playing high school football that resulted in paralysis from the chest down; the injury changed his life, and he adapted by learning new ways to successfully maneuver through life using assistive technology and personal assistants; and

WHEREAS, Greg Morrell was an active member of his community, unwavering advocate seeking justice and empowerment, and a positive influence on many people with and without disabilities, who lived his life with a sense of purpose, laughter, and love; and

WHEREAS, as a leader in the disability independent living movement, Greg Morrell was the executive director of the Appalachian Independence Center in Abingdon for more than 25 years; he was an effective advocate for accessible housing, transportation, and community buildings; a specialist on the Americans with Disabilities Act since 1991; and a member of numerous local and state entities representing people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Greg Morrell will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his mother, Sue Settle Morrell; four siblings, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; 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 Gregory Douglas Morrell, who worked for justice and inclusion of people with disabilities and was a devoted family man and friend to many; and, be it

RESOLVED FUTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Gregory Douglas Morrell as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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