

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 871

Celebrating the life of W. Alvin Hudson, Jr.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 10, 2017
Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 2017

WHEREAS, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., a longtime law-enforcement officer and public servant who dedicated his life to the service of his fellow Roanoke residents, died on January 19, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a native of Roanoke, Alvin Hudson began his career in public service with the Roanoke City Police Department in 1950 and rose through the ranks from patrol officer to lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, during his 27-year career with the Roanoke City Police Department, Alvin Hudson was named Officer of the Year for his work to investigate a burglary ring, and he served as personal protection officer for important visitors to the city, including four United States presidents and Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Alvin Hudson was appointed sheriff to fill an unexpired term and easily won reelection multiple times over the next 20 years, facing opposition only once; he overhauled the training and promotion procedures at the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office and helped increase efficiency by implementing a new computer system; and

WHEREAS, among his proudest accomplishments as sheriff, Alvin Hudson helped transform the Roanoke City Jail into a nationally accredited facility that can house up to 800 inmates; the facility met the rigorous criteria of the American Correctional Association and was the first jail in Virginia to achieve 100 percent compliance on the standards set by the Virginia Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to the community after his well-earned retirement as sheriff in 1997, Alvin Hudson successfully ran for election to the Roanoke City Council; he served on many boards, committees, and commissions, working to enhance the quality of life for all Roanoke residents, and worked with other local leaders to create innovative solutions to regional issues; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Hudson also served the Commonwealth as a member of the Virginia Army National Guard and the Virginia Board of Corrections; he was active in several service organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, the Freemasons, the Shriners, and youth athletics leagues, and he enjoyed fellowship and worship with the congregation of First Baptist Church of Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Hudson will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Jackie; daughters, Kathy and Bonnie, 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 W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., a respected law-enforcement officer and public servant and a pillar of the Roanoke community; 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 W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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