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**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 392**

Offered February 10, 2017

*Celebrating the life of Eli Mitri Habib.*

Patron—Yancey

WHEREAS, Eli Mitri Habib, beloved owner of a century-old family bakery and deli that is a Norfolk institution, died on January 10, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib graduated from Norfolk Catholic High School and attended Ferrum College; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib grew up working at the French Bakery and Delicatessen on Granby Street in Norfolk, the family business founded by his great-grandfather, a Lebanese immigrant, after he came to the United States near the turn of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib worked alongside his parents, brother, uncle, and grandmother as a co-baker and sandwich maker at the bakery and deli, and for three years he opened and operated a branch of the business in Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS, a Mason and member of the Corinthian Masonic Lodge No. 266, Eli Habib also worked as a building engineer for 10 years and as a construction manager, but his ultimate love was the family business; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib was loved and cherished by the regular customers of the French Bakery and Delicatessen, where he could be found behind the counter building one of the bakery's iconic pastrami sandwiches or in the back kneading a batch of French bread or making baba au rhum or eclairs, his favorite pastry; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib loved boating and fishing; with his infectious smile and warm personality, he touched the lives of many citizens of Norfolk both professionally and personally; and

WHEREAS, Eli Habib will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Lory; mother, Haifa; siblings, George, Pierre, Selma, and Sylvia, and their families; and many other relatives, good friends, and loyal customers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Eli Mitri Habib, beloved owner of a century-old family bakery and deli that is a Norfolk institution; 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 Eli Mitri Habib as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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