

2018 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 545

Commending George W. Lester II.

Agreed to by the Senate, May 30, 2018

WHEREAS, in 2018, George W. Lester II is retiring as chief executive officer of the Lester Group after more than four decades of exceptional leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Martinsville-based Lester Group was founded in 1896 as Lester Lumber Co., and George W. Lester II joined the family business in 1959; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, George Lester helped the company diversify into a three-state operation with divisions for forest products and building materials, manufacturing, and real estate development and management; and

WHEREAS, George Lester rose through the ranks to become president in 1974 and was subsequently chief executive officer, becoming the fourth member of his family to lead the company; his able leadership helped the company thrive during building booms and weather economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, during George Lester's tenure as chief executive officer, the Lester Group played a vital role in the economy of the region, partnering with communities in Virginia and North Carolina to develop projects that created many new jobs; and

WHEREAS, George Lester will continue to offer his wise counsel to the Lester Group as chair of the board of directors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That George W. Lester II hereby be commended on the occasion of his well-earned retirement as chief executive officer of the Lester Group; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to George W. Lester II as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for his contributions to the Southside Virginia community.

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