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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

Offered February 21, 2020

Celebrating the life of James Wesley Epperly.

Patron—Rush

WHEREAS, James Wesley Epperly, the longtime chief of the Christiansburg Fire Department who proudly served the community for 54 years, died on March 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, after joining the Christiansburg Fire Department, James "Jimmy" Wesley Epperly worked hard and with true purpose, achieving the ranks of firefighter, engineer and training officer, lieutenant, and captain; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Jimmy Epperly fulfilled his lifelong dream when he was elected chief, a position that he held for 38 years until his retirement in 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Jimmy Epperly received a letter from President Richard M. Nixon which recognized his dedication to fire prevention; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Epperly was elected president of the Southwest Virginia Firefighters Association from 1974 to 1975 and was subsequently named as a life member in 1990; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Governor Charles Robb appointed Jimmy Epperly to the Virginia Fire Services Board; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Epperly served as vice president, president, and owner of Epperly Pontiac-GMC Trucks until 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Jimmy Epperly was hired by the Town of Christiansburg to be the first paid, full-time fire chief and was recognized as both the youngest and longest-serving chief in the history of the department; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Epperly will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Linda Holbrook Epperly; their five children, Jennifer Epperly McDonald, Paula Epperly Walker, J. Wesley Epperly II, Katlyn Epperly Garner, and Christopher "Cade" Kark; his brother, Larry Alton Epperly; his stepchildren, Marla Mundy and Mike Mundy; his cousin, Eugene Argabright; his grandchildren, Mitchell Myers, Erin Myers, Brayden Epperly, Kylee Epperly, Elizabeth Walker, Anna Leigh Walker, Owen Ward, and Oliver Garner; and his step-grandchildren, Jordan McDonald, Maddie McDonald, Cody Doyon, Morgan Mundy, Logan Mundy, Jaxon Mundy, Kendyl Mundy, and Knox Mundy; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Epperly is survived by the members of the Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg Rescue Department, Christiansburg Hunt Club, and Montgomery Game and Fish Club; 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 James Wesley Epperly, a pillar of the Christiansburg 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 James Wesley Epperly as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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