

## 2021 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 364

Offered February 2, 2021

*Celebrating the life of Stephen Johnson.*

Patrons—DeSteph, Cosgrove, Dunnavant, Kiggans, Lewis, McDougle, Newman and Reeves; Delegates: Davis and Miyares

WHEREAS, Stephen Johnson, a passionate advocate for people with disabilities who worked to enhance care and support services throughout the Commonwealth, died on April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, after he was paralyzed from a fall in 1967, Stephen "Steve" Johnson worked to overcome his circumstances and complete his education, earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Old Dominion University; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson served as a peer counselor for people with disabilities, then became executive director of Endependence Center, Inc., for 27 years; he helped countless individuals develop independent living skills or career skills, as well as build confidence to continue engaging with their communities; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson offered his leadership and expertise to many local, state, and national boards and commissions on disability support, and he was champion for the passage of the Virginians with Disabilities Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson's influence led directly to projects increasing accessibility to many public buildings and areas in Virginia Beach; he also led a pilot project to establish consumer-directed personal assistance services, which are now used by more than 25,000 Virginians with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson helped establish and expand independent living centers across Hampton Roads and was an active leader and mentor in the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Johnson will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by numerous family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Stephen Johnson, a dedicated community leader who touched countless lives through his advocacy, vision, and generosity; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Stephen Johnson as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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