

21200611D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 549

Offered February 25, 2021

Celebrating the life of Michael J. Weber, Ph.D.

Patron—Deeds

WHEREAS, Michael J. Weber, Ph.D., director emeritus of the University of Virginia Cancer Center and an esteemed professor of microbiology, immunology, and cancer biology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, died on February 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Michael Weber was raised in New York City and was a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, Haverford College, and the University of California, San Diego; and

WHEREAS, Michael Weber's research focused on understanding cancer cell signaling as a target for cancer therapy; alongside colleagues Tom Sturgill and Tony Rossomando, he discovered mitogen-activated protein kinase, a cellular protein that is a key regulator of cell growth and an important drug target in many cancer therapies; and

WHEREAS, Michael Weber joined the faculty of University of Virginia in 1983, where he was a longtime advocate for integrating the efforts of basic and translational research, clinical trials, and compassionate care to create the best health outcomes for patients; and

WHEREAS, Michael Weber served as director of the University of Virginia Cancer Center from 2000 to 2013, elevating the institution's international reputation while spearheading the creation of the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Michael Weber continued to run an active lab with support from the V Foundation for Cancer Research and his recent work with Kallesh Jayappa contributed to the discovery of a novel drug combination therapy for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and mantle cell lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his life and achievements, the University of Virginia Cancer Center has established the Michael J. Weber Symposium, an annual scientific symposium that will bring world-renowned scientists and clinicians together to advance cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Michael Weber will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife of 53 years, Alison; his children, Aaron and Joel, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Michael J. Weber, Ph.D., a cherished member of the University of Virginia community whose accomplishments in the field of cancer research have helped countless individuals lead longer, healthier lives; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Michael J. Weber, Ph.D., as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.