

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 703

Offered August 3, 2021

Celebrating the life of Master Officer Woodrow W. Dowdy III.

Patrons—Dunnavant, Barker, Boysko, Cosgrove, Deeds, DeSteph, Ebbin, Favola, Hackworth, Hanger, Hashmi, Howell, Kiggans, Lewis, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McPike, Morrissey, Newman, Obenshain, Pillion, Ruff, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart and Vogel

WHEREAS, Master Officer Woodrow W. Dowdy III, a distinguished law-enforcement officer who served the Commonwealth as a longtime member of the Division of Capitol Police, died on March 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Woodrow "Buddy" Dowdy grew up in the Richmond area and attended Hermitage High School, where he was a standout member of the wrestling team; he subsequently graduated from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and the University of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Dowdy joined the Division of Capitol Police in July 1987 and earned many accolades and commendations for his meritorious service over the course of his 33-year career; he was promoted to master officer in 2017 and mentored younger members of the agency as a field training officer; and

WHEREAS, often stationed at the Post 1 guardhouse overlooking the main entry point to Capitol Square at Ninth Street and Grace Street, Buddy Dowdy was a highly recognizable member of the Division of Capitol Police and exhibited courtesy and professionalism in his frequent interactions with state officials, staff members, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Dowdy proudly served as a member of the Division of Capitol Police Honor Guard, and in 2018, he represented the division at numerous celebratory appearances commemorating its 400th anniversary as the oldest continuously operating law-enforcement agency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Dowdy was passionate about classic cars and enjoyed a wide range of outdoor activities, from gardening to kayaking on the James River; he was also a published author who had recounted many stories from his childhood in his book *The Neighborhood*; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Dowdy will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Cheryl; his son, Wilson; his father, Woody Dowdy, Jr., and numerous other family members, friends, fellow law-enforcement officers, and generations of people who had the opportunity to enjoy a conversation or exchange a friendly greeting with him outside Post 1; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Master Officer Woodrow W. Dowdy III, a respected member of the Division of Capitol Police; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Master Officer Woodrow W. Dowdy III as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

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