

2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 787

Offered February 20, 2023

Celebrating the life of Charles Kirtland.

Patron—Glass

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland, an accomplished restaurateur and advocate and a beloved member of the Hampton Roads community, died in January 2023; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was born in San Antonio, Texas, to a United States Naval family and had lived in Bermuda, Illinois, California, Texas, and the Commonwealth before ultimately settling in Norfolk in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a successful entrepreneur, having gone from bartending to becoming the principal owner at Gershwin's, a fine dining restaurant in downtown Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was the chair of the board of directors at the LGBT Life Center in Norfolk, where he worked tirelessly to empower the LGBTQIA+ community and all people affected by human immunodeficiency virus by promoting health and wellness, strengthening families and communities, and providing transformative education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a founding member of the Stonewall Sports league in Norfolk, an LGBTQIA+, community-based, nonprofit sports organization founded in 2010 that strives to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations through organized sports; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland was a longtime volunteer and sponsor of Hampton Roads Pride and a staunch advocate for LGBTQIA+ equality; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kirtland will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by numerous family members and friends; 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 Charles Kirtland, a cherished member of the Hampton Roads community whose kindness and generosity touched countless lives; 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 Charles Kirtland as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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