

2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 144

Offered February 16, 2023

*Celebrating the life of William John Banis.*

Patron—Rouse

WHEREAS, William John Banis, an esteemed education administrator and beloved member of the Virginia Beach community, served the students and faculty at Northwestern University for many years before his retirement in 2011, died on January 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pittsburgh, William "Bill" Banis graduated from Penn State University and later earned his doctoral degree from Old Dominion University; and

WHEREAS, Bill Banis enjoyed an illustrious career in higher education that spanned 44 years, beginning his tenure at Northwestern University in 1994 in what was then University Career Services and later spending 10 years at the helm of the Division of Student Affairs; and

WHEREAS, as vice president of student affairs at Northwestern University, Bill Banis guided the development of several new departments, many of which remain active today, including the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution; student affairs offices for Asian, Latino, and multicultural students; the Life Skills Center within Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS); the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life; and the LGBTQ Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, Bill Banis touched nearly every aspect of campus life while at Northwestern University, enhancing services for students with disabilities, CAPS, career services, the university chaplain's office, student housing, preorientation programs, community service initiatives, multicultural education, staff development, health education, and more; and

WHEREAS, Bill Banis' legacy at Northwestern University includes several facilities that were either built or upgraded under his leadership, such as Slivka Hall, Searle Hall, University Career Services, five dining halls, campus coffee shops and convenience stores, The Great Room, and the first floor of Norris University Center; and

WHEREAS, recognized throughout his career for his many accomplishments in higher education, Bill Banis was most proud of being elected to the National Association of Colleges and Employers Academy of Fellows in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Bill Banis was a mentor to students and colleagues alike and coauthored several books on topics related to career development, such as *High Impact Resumes and Letters: How to Communicate Your Qualifications to Employers*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to spending time with his family, Bill Banis enjoyed traveling with his wife, Lynn, and fishing, kayaking, and gardening; he was an active volunteer with the Virginia Beach Democratic Party and served the organization as chair; and

WHEREAS, Bill Banis will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife of 34 years, Lynn; his children, Kristen, Melissa, and Heather, 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 William John Banis, an accomplished higher education administrator and valued member of the Virginia Beach community whose leadership touched countless lives; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of William John Banis as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

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