

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200166D

1 **SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 617**

2 Offered June 17, 2024

3 *Commending Dennis M. Ellmer.*

4 Patrons—Craig, DeSteph, Diggs, Jordan, Locke, Lucas, Obenshain, Peake, Reeves, Stanley and Williams
5 Graves

6 WHEREAS, Dennis M. Ellmer, president of Priority Auto Group based in Chesapeake, will be presented
7 the First Citizen of Chesapeake award by the Rotary Club of Chesapeake and the Chesapeake Rotary
8 Foundation on September 12, 2024; and

9 WHEREAS, raised in the Ocean View area of Norfolk and a graduate of both Norview High School in
10 Norfolk and Old Dominion University, Dennis Ellmer has resided most of his life in the Hampton Roads
11 area; and

12 WHEREAS, after several years in sales, Dennis Ellmer purchased his first car dealership in Chesapeake in
13 1998 then worked tirelessly to grow the business into an organization that today consists of 20 dealerships
14 staffed by more than 2,500 employees; and

15 WHEREAS, Dennis Ellmer has generously supported various Hampton Roads charities and initiatives
16 over the years, including the YMCA, Special Olympics Virginia, the Chesapeake Sports Club, the
17 Chesapeake Virginia Wine Festival, the Chesapeake Jubilee, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, the
18 Priority Toyota Cancer Center, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia; and

19 WHEREAS, in the spirit of helping others, Dennis Ellmer established the “Priorities for Change”
20 volunteer program at Priority Auto Group to encourage his employees to become agents of change in their
21 communities; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2018, Dennis Ellmer and the Priority Auto Group partnered with Tidewater Community
23 College and the Norfolk Sheriff's Office to create the Priority Automotive Inmate Training Program, an
24 endeavor that has provided many nonviolent felons with the opportunity to acquire automotive repair skills,
25 find gainful employment, and make a fresh start; and

26 WHEREAS, since 2010, Dennis Ellmer and Priority Auto Group have sponsored and hosted the Priority
27 Charity Bowl at Old Dominion University, raising millions of dollars for more than 40 charities dedicated to
28 assisting children in need throughout the region; and

29 WHEREAS, in addition to his recent accolade, Dennis Ellmer has received numerous honors over the
30 years, including the Robert G. “Buddy” Bagley Sportsman of the Year award from the Chesapeake Sports
31 Club, the Distinguished Virginian Award from the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, and the First Citizen of
32 Norfolk award from the Cosmopolitan Club of Norfolk, all of which serve as testament to his profound
33 impact on the Hampton Roads community; now, therefore, be it

34 RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Dennis M. Ellmer hereby be commended for being named
35 the 2024 First Citizen of Chesapeake by the Rotary Club of Chesapeake and the Chesapeake Rotary
36 Foundation; and, be it

37 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to
38 Dennis M. Ellmer as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for his contributions to Hampton
39 Roads and the Commonwealth.

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