

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200231D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 620

Offered June 18, 2024

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Celebrating the life of Francis Xavier O'Leary.

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Patrons—Favola, Ebbin, McPike and Surovell

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WHEREAS, Francis Xavier O'Leary, the longtime treasurer of Arlington County and a highly admired
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WHEREAS, Francis Xavier O'Leary, the longtime treasurer of Arlington County and a highly admired
community leader who significantly enhanced the quality of life in the region through his generosity and
commitment to civic service, died on June 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Francis “Frank” O’Leary was born into a military family and graduated from Frankfurt
American High School in Germany; he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, then
transferred to Georgetown University, from which he earned a bachelor of science in foreign service degree
in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary completed graduate-level coursework in economic theory at Georgetown
University, then settled in Arlington with his wife, Linda, in 1969; early in his career, he worked on
programs to address poverty and employment rates and subsequently served as president of NOVA
Research Associates; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to the community, Frank O’Leary ran for and was elected as
treasurer of Arlington County, with his 89-vote victory earning him the tongue-in-cheek nickname
“Landslide O’Leary”; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary ably maintained Arlington County’s finances from January 1984 until his
well-earned retirement in 2014, becoming the second-longest serving constitutional officer in the modern
history of the county; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary used his business acumen and expertise to develop policies that lowered
Arlington County’s tax delinquency rate from more than nine percent to an all-time low of three-tenths of one
percent by 2014; and

WHEREAS, among his many other accomplishments, Frank O’Leary achieved a high rate of return on
county investments, enhanced customer service by instituting online payment procedures and other
innovations, and reorganized the treasurer’s office to better reflect the diversity of the Arlington County
community; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary earned many awards and accolades for his work, including two Excellence in
Financial Management Awards from the Government Financial Management Association, the Distinguished
Leadership in Financial Management from the Association of Public Treasurers, five Excellence in
Technology Awards from the Public Technology Institute, and an Achievement Award from the National
Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in his field, Frank O’Leary served two terms as president of the Treasurers’
Association of Virginia, from which he also received a Treasurer of the Year award in the 1980s and
posthumously received the L. Gene Harding Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024; and

WHEREAS, outside of his career, Frank O’Leary volunteered his leadership and expertise to the Lyon
Park Civic Association, Cub Scout Pack 104 at Clarendon United Methodist Church, the Arlington Historical
Society, the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, the Arlington Red Cross, and the Optimist Club of Arlington,
among other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary helped establish and served as longtime president of the Warren G.
Stambaugh Memorial Foundation, which during his tenure raised more than \$200,000 to support
organizations that serve people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a proud patriot, Frank O’Leary tirelessly supported the USS Arlington Commissioning
Committee and was active in the USS Arlington Community Alliance, which fosters strong ties between the
ship and its crew and the residents of Arlington; he also participated in Arlington’s World War I Centennial
Task Force, which produced interpretive panels that remain on display at the Arlington War Memorial, and
was appointed to Arlington County’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, Frank O’Leary will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his devoted wife of 56
years, Linda; his children, Heather and Brian, 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 Francis Xavier
O’Leary, a pillar of the Arlington community who touched countless lives over the course of his distinguished
career in public service; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to
the family of Francis Xavier O’Leary as an expression of the Senate of Virginia’s respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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