

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200354D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 819

Offered July 18, 2024

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3 *Celebrating the life of Frank Kilgore.*
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6 Patron—
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8 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore, a respected attorney, passionate environmentalist, advocate for education, and
9 unwavering champion for the people of Southwest Virginia, died on July 14, 2024; and

10 WHEREAS, the proud son of a coal miner, Frank Kilgore overcame poverty through hard work and
11 determination, cultivating an appreciation for the importance of a good education that lasted throughout his
12 life; and

13 WHEREAS, after graduating from Clinch Valley College, now known as the University of Virginia's
14 College at Wise, Frank Kilgore worked as a forester and developed an abiding interest in the great outdoors;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, unable to afford law school, Frank Kilgore began reading the law under a practicing attorney
17 and ultimately became a lawyer focused on environmental issues in Southwest Virginia; he used his legal
18 acumen to make a difference in the region by fighting for strip mine regulation and representing members of
19 the United Mine Workers during strikes in the 1980s; and

20 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore was a champion for the people of Southwest Virginia and worked to
21 counteract stereotypes about the region and other Appalachian communities through articles, books, public
22 appearances, and advocacy; his unparalleled knowledge of the region was an invaluable resource for
23 journalists, authors, and researchers; and

24 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore worked directly with government officials to build bipartisan support for
25 programs to enhance the quality of life in Southwest Virginia, such as funding for clean water systems,
26 economic revitalization, conservation projects, and education initiatives, becoming known as an unofficial
27 one-man chamber of commerce for the region; and

28 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore played a crucial role in the founding of the Appalachian School of Law in
29 Grundy and the Appalachian College of Pharmacy in Oakwood; he developed an encyclopedic knowledge of
30 the accolades earned by Southwest Virginia schools and the achievements of their students and never
31 hesitated to sing the praises of both; and

32 WHEREAS, in addition, Frank Kilgore was an advocate for the advancement of women in the legal
33 profession and supported the appointment of more women judges in the region; and

34 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore's name was synonymous with outdoor recreation; he was involved in the
35 creation of the Mendota Trail and donated some of the land for what is now Clinch River State Park, where
36 he personally blazed trails in one section of the park; and

37 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore also led efforts to encourage the Commonwealth to acquire the Channels
38 Natural Area Preserve, a unique system of sandstone crevices and boulders that are millions of years old; and

39 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore's many and varied contributions to Southwest Virginia touched countless lives
40 and left a positive impact that will be felt by generations to come; and

41 WHEREAS, Frank Kilgore will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Teresa; his
42 children, Joyce and Jason, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues;
43 now, therefore, be it

44 RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Frank Kilgore, a
45 pillar of the community in Southwest Virginia; and, be it

46 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for
47 presentation to the family of Frank Kilgore as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his
48 memory.

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