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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 477

Offered January 14, 2025

*Celebrating the life of Henry Furlong Baldwin.*_____
Patron—Knight

WHEREAS, Henry Furlong Baldwin of Northampton County, a respected leader in the banking industry who served as the longtime president of the former Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company and as a former chair of the Nasdaq Stock Market, died on December 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Furlong Baldwin grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and attended the Calvert School and the Gilman School before graduating from Princeton University, where he was an All-American lacrosse player; and

WHEREAS, after serving his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Furlong Baldwin joined Baltimore's Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company in July 1956; over the course of his career, he counted checks in the proof and collections department, served as a bank teller, worked in the loan cage, and posted in the general ledger, a canvas-covered compendium of transactions that was approximately two feet high at the time; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Furlong Baldwin was selected as president of Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company; he subsequently served as chair and chief executive officer of the bank and president and chief executive officer of its parent company, Mercantile Bankshares Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Furlong Baldwin's disciplined and cautious management helped keep the bank stable and independent during his tenure; he also helped guide the bank into commercial lending and acquired numerous smaller banks that thrived and maintained much of their own independence under his strategic leadership; and

WHEREAS, Furlong Baldwin's success was rooted in his ability to quickly understand people and forge strong bonds based on trust and mutual respect; he inspired others through his self-confidence, toughness, and reliability; and

WHEREAS, outside of his career, Furlong Baldwin was devoted to civic engagement and offered his wisdom and insights to the board of trustees at Johns Hopkins Medicine; he also enhanced cultural life in Baltimore by supporting the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Walters Art Museum, and many other exceptional nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Furlong Baldwin made his home at Eyre Hall in Cheriton, where he enjoyed sailing and hunting geese; his commitment to philanthropy extended to the Commonwealth, serving on the boards of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and the Stratford Hall Historic Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Furlong Baldwin will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his children, Eyre and Molly, and their families, including his granddaughter, Grace; his companion of 37 years, Louise Hayman; and numerous other 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 Henry Furlong Baldwin, a distinguished leader in the banking industry and a true Virginia gentleman; 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 Henry Furlong Baldwin as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his life.

INTRODUCED

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