

25106251D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 322

Offered January 30, 2025

Celebrating the life of the Honorable Henry Levander Marsh III.

Patrons—Bagby, Aird, Boysko, Carroll Foy, Cifers, Craig, Deeds, DeSteph, Diggs, Durant, Ebbin, Favola, French, Hackworth, Hashmi, Head, Jordan, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, McDougale, McPike, Mulchi, Obenshain, Peake, Pekarsky, Perry, Pillion, Reeves, Roem, Rouse, Salim, Srinivasan, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Suetterlein, Surovell, VanValkenburg and Williams Graves; Delegates: Carr, McQuinn and Wyatt

WHEREAS, the Honorable Henry Levander Marsh III, a titan of the Richmond legal community whose efforts as a civil rights attorney and public servant transformed both the city and the Commonwealth, died on January 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Richmond, Henry Marsh graduated with honors from Maggie L. Walker High School and Virginia Union University before earning a juris doctor degree from Howard University in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh served his country with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Army before beginning his law career in 1961 alongside the renowned civil rights attorneys Oliver W. Hill, Sr. and Samuel W. Tucker; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh later became a partner and formed the law firm Hill, Tucker and Marsh, which represented plaintiffs in several landmark cases that challenged segregation in schools and racial discrimination in employment, achieving legal victories that secured greater civil rights protections for countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh was elected to Richmond City Council in 1966, then selected by his fellow councilmembers as vice mayor in 1970 and as mayor in 1977, becoming the first Black mayor in the city's history; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh faithfully served as mayor of Richmond until 1982 and on the Richmond City Council until 1991, when he was elected to the Senate of Virginia, where he represented the newly formed 16th Senate District, which at the time included Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, and parts of Chesterfield County, Prince George County, and Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh retired from the Senate of Virginia in 2014 after more than two decades of dedicated service and was shortly thereafter appointed to serve as a commissioner of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board by Governor Terry McAuliffe; and

WHEREAS, beyond his public service, Henry Marsh fostered the growth and development of Richmond as a co-founder of the Metropolitan Economic Development Council and what is today Venture Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Henry Marsh's legacy in Richmond and at the General Assembly grew significantly over the years through the generous mentorship he provided to many of the city's and state's elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, in addition to receiving a plethora of awards from various notable organizations, Henry Marsh was recently honored by the rededication of the Henry L. Marsh III Elementary School and the Henry L. Marsh III and Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Manchester Courthouse in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his loving wife of 58 years, Diane, Henry Marsh will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his children, Nadine, Sonya, and Dwayne, and their families; and by numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Honorable Henry Levander Marsh III, a pillar of the Richmond community who epitomized what one can achieve through advocacy and service; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Honorable Henry Levander Marsh III as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

SJ322