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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 676

Offered February 12, 2025

Celebrating the life of Michael Gregory Brown.

Patrons—McQuinn, Clark, Cole, Cordoza, Cousins, Green, Hope, Keys-Gamarra, Martinez, Mundon King, Rasoul and Ware

WHEREAS, Michael Gregory Brown, an honorable veteran, esteemed civil servant, and active and beloved member of the Richmond community, died on January 26, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Michael Brown was raised in the North Side neighborhood of Richmond and graduated from Maggie L. Walker High School before matriculating at Hampton Institute, now known as Hampton University; and

WHEREAS, Michael Brown was drafted into the United States Army and served his country with honor and distinction during the Vietnam War, earning a Purple Heart for his bravery and valor; and

WHEREAS, following his service, Michael Brown obtained a degree from Virginia Union University and became active in social justice and political efforts; and

WHEREAS, as a former secretary of the State Board of Elections, Michael Brown devoted himself to ensuring citizens had access to voting information, particularly in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, a tireless champion of voter empowerment, democracy, and civic engagement, Michael Brown worked closely with the NAACP and its state and local chapters; and

WHEREAS, Michael Brown supported many local and statewide Democratic political campaigns over the years, including the historic campaigns of his uncle, Governor L. Douglas Wilder, the first Black politician to be elected governor of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, guided throughout his life by his faith, Michael Brown enjoyed worship and fellowship with his community at the historic First African Baptist Church in Richmond from a young age; and

WHEREAS, Michael Brown will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his wife, Valery; his children, Shani and Michelle, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Michael Gregory Brown, a cherished member of the Richmond community whose commitment to social justice and political empowerment made a lasting impact on countless lives; 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 Michael Gregory Brown as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.