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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 797

Offered February 18, 2025

Celebrating the life of Claude Allen Cobler.

Patron—Williams

WHEREAS, Claude Allen Cobler, a dedicated and beloved member of the Bassett community who had a tremendous impact on emergency services in Henry County, died on October 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, born in Henry County and one of 12 children, Claude Cobler was a devoted and hardworking employee at Fieldcrest Mills for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Claude Cobler joined the Bassett Rescue Squad in 1966, embarking upon a long and illustrious career as an emergency medical technician; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as the captain, treasurer, chaplain, and president of the board of directors of the Bassett Rescue Squad, Claude Cobler organized the Smith River Valley Rescue Squad in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Claude Cobler was notably one of the first emergency medical technician instructors in the Commonwealth and also taught cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency vehicle operations, helping thousands of police officers and first responders better serve their communities; and

WHEREAS, Claude Cobler was a life member of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads and served the organization as chaplain and vice president of District 6; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts, Claude Cobler received various accolades at the local and state level, including the 2011 Jack Dalton Community Service Award from the Henry County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, guided by his faith, Claude Cobler enjoyed worship and fellowship with his community at First Baptist Church in Bassett, where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his wife, Beatrice, Claude Cobler is fondly remembered and dearly missed by his children, Allen, Jeanie, and Janice, and their families and by numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Claude Allen Cobler, a treasured member of the Bassett community whose dedication and legacy of service inspired all who knew him; 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 Claude Allen Cobler as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.