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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 445

Offered February 17, 2025

*Celebrating the life of Matthew Charles Obenshain.*

Patrons—Suetterlein, Boysko, Cifers, Craig, DeSteph, Diggs, Durant, Ebbin, Favola, French, Hackworth, Hashmi, Head, Jordan, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, McDougle, McPike, Mulchi, Obenshain, Peake, Pillion, Reeves, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant and Surovell; Delegates: Anthony, Arnold, Askew, Austin, Ballard, Batten, Bloxom, Bulova, Callsen, Campbell, Carr, Cherry, Clark, Cohen, Cole, Convirs-Fowler, Cordoza, Cousins, Coyner, Davis, Delaney, Earley, Ennis, Feggans, Fowler, Freitas, Gardner, Garrett, Gilbert, Glass, Green, Griffin, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Higgins, Hodges, Hope, Jones, Kent, Keys-Gamarra, Kilgore, Krizek, Laufer, Leftwich, Lopez, Lovejoy, Martinez, McClure, McNamara, McQuinn, Milde, Morefield, Oates, Obenshain, O'Quinn, Orrock, Owen, Phillips, Rasoul, Reaser, Reid, Runion, Scott, P.A., Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simonds, Singh, Sullivan, Tata, Thomas, Torian, Tran, Wachsmann, Walker, Ward, Ware, Watts, Webert, Wiley, Willett, Williams, Wilt, Wright, Wyatt and Zehr

WHEREAS, Matthew Charles Obenshain, a beloved member of the Salem community, passed away on July 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Matthew “Mac” Obenshain was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect at a young age and overcame this challenge with great courage and strength to lead a rich and fulfilling life in service to others; and

WHEREAS, Mac Obenshain epitomized the values of servant leadership throughout his professional career, which included positions with the United States Census Bureau and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and he was steadfastly committed to working in ways that would help other people; and

WHEREAS, Mac Obenshain was cherished by all who knew him for his kind and personable nature, and he easily formed friendships with anyone he encountered; and

WHEREAS, Mac Obenshain was guided throughout his life by his Christian faith and enjoyed worship and fellowship at Grandin Court Baptist Church in Cave Spring and did ministry work in the Roanoke Valley, Romania, Guatemala, and Panama; and

WHEREAS, Mac Obenshain was an ardent supporter of Republican principles, having served as president of the Roanoke Valley Young Republicans, as a member of the Salem Republican Committee, and as an enthusiastic volunteer of many GOP campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Mac Obenshain will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his parents, Joseph and Marcia Obenshain; his siblings, Catherine Obenshain Piché and the Honorable Chris Obenshain; and 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 Matthew Charles Obenshain, a revered member of the Salem community whose powerful faith and relentless optimism inspired all who knew him; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Matthew Charles Obenshain as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.