

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200759D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1001

Offered October 29, 2025

Celebrating the life of Thomas Edward Mason, Sr.

Patron—Bloxom

WHEREAS, Thomas Edward Mason, Sr., an honorable veteran, accomplished business owner, and beloved member of the Chincoteague community, died on October 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason graduated from Chincoteague High School and served his country with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason acquired business experience early in his career working with his father in the Jones and Mason Gas Station and Garage; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason later partnered with his wife, Donna, to open the oyster shucking and seafood business Mason Seafood, followed by the Waterside Inn and a venture selling aquacultured oysters and clams; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason was a well-respected, prominent, and proud member of the Chincoteague Island community, recognized for his entrepreneurial spirit, his work in the seafood and hospitality industries, and his contributions to local aquaculture; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason had a passion for working on the water, and he partnered with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on research and development projects; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason knew that a sustainable shellfish industry in the Commonwealth could only be achieved from a healthy combination of wild and domestic clams and oysters; in recognition of his leadership and expertise, he was named to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Blue-Ribbon Oyster Panel; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason was a passionate leader who partnered with friends in the fabrication industry to develop aquaculture equipment, much of which is still used today; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Mason will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 57 years, Donna; his son, Thomas, Jr., and his family; and numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Thomas Edward Mason, Sr., a distinguished member of the Chincoteague business community and a leader in the aquaculture community on the Eastern Shore; 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 Thomas Edward Mason, Sr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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