

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 987

*Celebrating the life of Tony Alfred Fisher, Jr.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, October 29, 2025

WHEREAS, Tony Alfred Fisher, Jr., a retired educator who inspired countless young people in Portsmouth and a highly admired community leader who gave generously of his time and talents to serve others, died on October 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born on September 3, 1948, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Tony Fisher was the beloved son of the late Tony Alfred Fisher, Sr., and Mary Lee Fisher and was the eldest of six children; and

WHEREAS, Tony Fisher was a proud graduate of Scotlandville High School and received athletic scholarships to Southern University and Norfolk State University (NSU); he ultimately graduated *magna cum laude* from NSU with a bachelor's degree in English education; and

WHEREAS, Tony Fisher married his college sweetheart, Patricia Ann Hawkins, on September 6, 1969, and together they shared more than five decades of love and partnership, raising two daughters, Nichol Tonette and Shanetta Sherice, who were the pride and joy of his life; and

WHEREAS, Tony Fisher began to cultivate his deep and unwavering faith as a youth at St. Luke Methodist Church in Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, and later became a devoted member of Community Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, where he served faithfully as an ordained elder, chair of the personnel team, treasurer for the Men's Organization and Usher Board, and teacher during Summer Vacation Bible School; and

WHEREAS, in his professional life, Tony Fisher exemplified diligence and excellence, working for Procter & Gamble for 25 years as a forklift and inventory technician before answering a higher calling to education, teaching middle and high school students in Portsmouth Public Schools for two decades; and

WHEREAS, Tony Fisher also served as school improvement chair and data analyst for the New Directions Center, an alternative school in Portsmouth, where he was twice recognized as Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, even after his retirement in 2014, Tony Fisher continued to serve as a tutor and mentor for local students, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of countless young people; he was affectionately known as "Coach Fisher" in the Cavalier Manor community for his years as a little league football coach; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to service and brotherhood, Tony Fisher was an active member of the Zeta Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., where he served as the keeper of records and seal for more than 20 years, and of the Eureka Club of Portsmouth, where he supported community events and youth leadership; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong supporter of his alma mater, Tony Fisher was a member of the NSU Athletic Foundation and, alongside his wife, was inducted into the NSU Emerald Society in 2024 for his steadfast commitment to the university and its students; and

WHEREAS, Tony Fisher lived a full and joyful life, marked by integrity, humility, and compassion, and will be remembered as a kind and principled man of faith, a devoted husband and father, a proud grandfather, a loyal friend, and a pillar of his community whose quiet strength continues to inspire all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Tony Alfred Fisher, Jr., a distinguished member of the Portsmouth community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Patricia Hawkins Fisher and the Fisher family as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for the memory of Tony Alfred Fisher, Jr.

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