

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 997

Celebrating the life of Robert Clarence Wilkins.

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

WHEREAS, Robert Clarence Wilkins, an accomplished musician and tradesman, civic activist and leader, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and beloved member of the Suffolk community, died on October 17, 2025, leaving a legacy of wisdom, compassion, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, known affectionately by family and friends as “Speedy,” Robert Wilkins graduated from the former John F. Kennedy High School in Suffolk in 1971 and in his young adult years was the lead vocalist of The Young Sensations, displaying a gift for writing music and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins was skilled in many trades and found success over the years as a barber, carpenter, repairman, painter, lawn care technician, and mechanic; and

WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins was actively involved in the community as an advocate and activist, particularly as the organizer of Jericho Community Day and through his involvement with the Jericho/Hollywood Civic League and the Suffolk Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins founded Hidden Strength in 2001, a nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing the character and potential of young people, providing alternatives to incarceration through a number of support services; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts, Robert Wilkins was presented the Community Service Award by the East Suffolk Federated Civic League in 2010 and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Suffolk in 2024; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep faith, Robert Wilkins enjoyed worship and fellowship with his community at Rising Saint James Pentecostal Holiness Church in Suffolk, where he assisted in many capacities, including as a trustee, president of the male chorus, usher, Sunday school teacher, and handyman; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his sons, Robert L. and Reginald, Robert Wilkins will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife, Celestine; his children, Robert A., Karl, Vidal, Daylan, Princess, James, Willie, and Santonyo, 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 Robert Clarence Wilkins, a cherished member of the Suffolk community who made a profound and 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 Robert Clarence Wilkins as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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