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## 1                   SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 87

2                   Offered February 6, 2026

3                   *Celebrating the life of Mimi Milner Elrod.*4                   \_\_\_\_\_  
5                   Patron—Deeds6                   WHEREAS, Mimi Milner Elrod, a champion of higher education who served the students of Washington  
7                   and Lee University for many years and a trailblazing public servant who made history as the first female  
8                   mayor of Lexington, died on March 25, 2025; and9                   WHEREAS, Mimi Elrod grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where she graduated from Oglethorpe University;  
10                  she began her career as a junior high school teacher in Harlem, New York, then relocated to Iowa, where she  
11                  earned a master's degree and a doctorate in early childhood development; and12                  WHEREAS, Mimi Elrod settled in Lexington in 1984 and served Washington and Lee University in a  
13                  variety of roles, including as assistant director of admissions and director of the Summer Scholars Program;  
14                  she also provided vital support to her husband, John, in his roles as dean, vice president for academic affairs,  
15                  and president; and16                  WHEREAS, after her retirement from Washington and Lee University, Mimi Elrod pursued a career in  
17                  government; she initially ran for office as a state legislator, then received an appointment to fill an unexpired  
18                  term on the Lexington City Council in 2003; and19                  WHEREAS, in recognition of her achievements and dedication to enhancing the quality of life of the  
20                  people of Lexington, Mimi Elrod was elected to a full term on the Lexington City Council in 2006; and21                  WHEREAS, over the course of her historic tenure as mayor from 2008 to 2016, Mimi Elrod oversaw the  
22                  economic revitalization of downtown Lexington, guided numerous enhancements to city infrastructure, and  
23                  supported several initiatives related to public education, including the renovation of Harrington Waddell  
24                  Elementary School; and25                  WHEREAS, Mimi Elrod further served the Commonwealth as an appointee to the State Council of Higher  
26                  Education for Virginia; she also volunteered her time and talents to support several nonprofit organizations  
27                  and was an elder at Lexington Presbyterian Church; and28                  WHEREAS, predeceased by her husband of 38 years, John, Mimi Elrod will be fondly remembered and  
29                  greatly missed by her sons, Adam and Joshua, and their families; and numerous other family members and  
30                  friends; now, therefore, be it31                  RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note  
32                  with great sadness the loss of Mimi Milner Elrod, a pillar of the Lexington community who made numerous  
33                  contributions to local life as a longtime employee of Washington and Lee University and a trusted public  
34                  servant; and, be it35                  RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to  
36                  the family of Mimi Milner Elrod as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for her memory.

INTRODUCED

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