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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 306

Offered March 9, 2026

*Celebrating the life of Thomas Vincent Van Auken, Jr.*

Patrons—Willett and Ware; Senators: Sturtevant and VanValkenburg

WHEREAS, Thomas Vincent Van Auken, Jr., a distinguished scientist, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, and cherished member of the Richmond community, died on June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Thomas “Tom” Vincent Van Auken, Jr., earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before conducting postdoctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, after teaching briefly at the University of Texas at Austin, Tom Van Auken worked as a research scientist, first at Union Carbide Corporation in Charleston, West Virginia, and later at Philip Morris in Richmond, where his efforts would lead to nine patents; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Tom Van Auken shared his extensive knowledge of science for the benefit of the community through his service on the Virginia State Water Control Board and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member of the Chesterfield County Republican Committee, Tom Van Auken supported and mentored many candidates and party leaders over several decades and employed his passion for photography by serving as their unofficial photographer; and

WHEREAS, Tom Van Auken never hesitated to help someone who was in need and was happiest of all when spending quality time with his family and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Tom Van Auken will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife of 59 years, Nancy; his children, Newell and Thomas, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Thomas Vincent Van Auken, Jr., a revered member of the Richmond community whose kindness and generosity touched 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 Thomas Vincent Van Auken, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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