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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

Offered March 10, 2026

Commending Peter C. DePaolis.

Patron—Surovell

WHEREAS, Peter C. DePaolis, a trusted attorney who spent four decades as a champion for personal injury victims in Virginia and Washington, D.C., retired in 2025; and

WHEREAS, after graduating as a Phi Beta Kappa scholar from Lafayette College in 1971, Peter DePaolis served the nation for two years as a lieutenant in the United States Army, then earned his law degree from the George Washington University Law School, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif; and

WHEREAS, Peter DePaolis served as a judicial law clerk under a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, then as an assistant United States attorney in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Peter DePaolis joined the law firm that became known as Koonz, McKenney, Johnson and DePaolis; for 46 years, he exclusively represented those harmed by accidents and medical negligence, earning the admiration of colleagues and clients alike for his integrity, legal acumen, compassionate advocacy, fairness, and collaborative leadership style; and

WHEREAS, early in his career, Peter DePaolis won a landmark decision in *Wilson v. Johns-Manville Sales Corp.*, which established the right of asbestos victims to file two separate claims, one for asbestosis and the other for subsequently diagnosed mesothelioma or asbestos-induced cancers; the decision has been followed by courts throughout the country and has led to successful recoveries for thousands of victims of asbestos diseases; and

WHEREAS, Peter DePaolis also was plaintiff's counsel in *Fearson v. Johns-Manville Sales Corp.*, another important case, which held that in a latent occupational disease action brought by an asbestos insulation installer's widow, the statute of limitations began to run when the installer discovered he had bronchogenic carcinoma, not when he was previously diagnosed as having asbestosis; and

WHEREAS, Peter DePaolis is active in a number of civic associations in the Northern Virginia area and has coached his children and other young people in the West Springfield Little League, Burke Soccer Club, and Burke Athletic Club for more than 20 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Peter C. DePaolis hereby be commended for his service to clients in the Commonwealth and Washington, D.C., on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Peter C. DePaolis as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for his contributions to the legal profession and legacy of achievements.

INTRODUCED

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