

24200035D

## **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 648**

Offered May 13, 2024

Prefiled May 13, 2024

## *Celebrating the life of Albert Lester Simmons.*

## Patrons—Carr, Cousins, Jones and McQuinn

WHEREAS, Albert Lester Simmons, a passionate advocate for people in need and a devoted husband, stepfather, and grandfather in Richmond, died on March 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Albert "Al" Lester Simmons was born in Tazewell County and grew up in Bluefield, West Virginia, where he graduated from Bluefield High School; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons joined the United States Army after high school and deployed to Vietnam as an artilleryman; after returning home, he attended Concord College and earned a bachelor's degree from Bluefield College; and

WHEREAS, for most of his career, Al Simmons worked as a preschool teacher, using his own life experiences to inspire and uplift young people at several daycare programs, including Grace and Holy Trinity Child Care and the Second Presbyterian Church Child Care Center, from which he retired as director; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons touched countless lives through his kindness and generosity and connected with children through his sense of humor and creativity; and

WHEREAS, during his college years, Al Simmons took part in the antiwar movement and was inspired to provide a voice for the powerless; he participated in countless meetings, demonstrations, and marches, and he courageously advocated for justice before local, state, and national officials throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, after he was arrested at a peaceful protest in 2008 and subsequently incarcerated for two years, Al Simmons also became an advocate for people in the criminal justice system and supported family members of incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons loved sports and music, and he was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking and backpacking around the country; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 37 years, Marcia; his stepchildren, Anne, Tom, and Laura, and their families, including six beloved grandchildren; 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 Albert Lester Simmons, a highly admired member of the Richmond community; 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 Albert Lester Simmons as an expression of the House of Delegates' sympathy.

respect for his memory.