

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200004D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 683

Offered May 13, 2024

1                   3 *Celebrating the life of David P. Helms.*

4                   5 Patron—Arnold

6                   6 WHEREAS, David P. Helms, who touched countless lives through his generosity and commitment to  
7 service as a retired educator, an active community leader, and the mayor of Marion, died on March 21,  
8 2024; and

9                   9 WHEREAS, David Helms grew up in Washington County and attended Glade Spring High School;  
10 he subsequently earned a bachelor's degree from Emory & Henry College and a master's degree from  
11 Radford University, then conducted additional studies at the University of Virginia; and

12                   12 WHEREAS, David Helms began his career in education at Meadowview Elementary School, then  
13 taught at Glade Spring Elementary School and Marion Intermediate School until he became the assistant  
14 principal of Marion Primary School; he was promoted to principal in 1973 and served in that capacity  
15 until his retirement in 2000; and

16                   16 WHEREAS, in addition to his work as an educator and school administrator, David Helms ran for  
17 and was elected to the Glade Spring Town Council from 1968 to 1970 and the Marion Town Council  
18 from 1990 to 2000; he provided his wise and insightful leadership to the Marion community as mayor  
19 from 2000 to the time of his passing; and

20                   20 WHEREAS, over the course of his career, David Helms made numerous contributions to the  
21 revitalization of Downtown Marion, and he helped his alma mater develop a new location in the town,  
22 the Emory & Henry College Health Sciences Campus; and

23                   23 WHEREAS, David Helms further represented the Marion community as a member of the executive  
24 committee and past president of the Virginia Municipal League and an original board member of the  
25 Mount Rogers Planning District Commission; and

26                   26 WHEREAS, a proud patriot, David Helms was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post  
27 4667, Rolling Thunder, and other veterans organizations; he also volunteered for Memorial Day events  
28 and with the Salvation Army; and

29                   29 WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades, David Helms was named as an Outstanding  
30 Educator by VFW Post 4667 in 1999 and was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of  
31 Marion in 2005; and

32                   32 WHEREAS, David Helms will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Sue, and  
33 numerous other family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

34                   34 RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of David P.  
35 Helms, a former educator, devoted public servant, and pillar of the Marion community; and, be it

36                   36 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution  
37 for presentation to the family of David P. Helms as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for  
38 his memory.

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HR683