

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

Offered March 10, 2022

Celebrating the life of Willis H. Burton, Jr.

Patron—Delaney

WHEREAS, Willis H. Burton, Jr., former fire administrator and the first chief fire marshal of what is now the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and a beloved member of the Kilmarnock community, died on January 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Willis "Bill" Burton began his career as a firefighter with the Herndon Volunteer Fire Department and was hired by Fairfax County on July 1, 1953, as the first fire chief for the newly established Office of the Fire Marshal; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burton served as fire chief for 10 years before being appointed fire administrator, a position that is similar in responsibilities to that of the present-day fire chief, and retired from the department in 1971; and

WHEREAS, under Bill Burton's leadership, Fairfax County purchased its first county-owned firefighting apparatus, constructed the fire training center, graduated its first class of recruits, and established a bond referendum to build seven more fire stations; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burton will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by numerous family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Willis H. Burton, Jr., whose service with Fairfax County impacted 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 Willis H. Burton, Jr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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