

2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Gary Michael Roberts.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 3, 2022

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gary Michael Roberts, a dedicated religious leader and highly admired member of the Richlands and Cedar Bluff communities, died on May 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Tazewell County, Michael "Mike" Roberts graduated from Richlands High School and was one of the first students to major in business administration at Southwest Virginia Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mike Roberts worked for Deskins Supermarket, the *Richlands News-Press*, and WR Boyd Construction; he was a Class A contractor as well as a master electrician and plumber; and

WHEREAS, Mike Roberts began to cultivate his deep and abiding faith at a young age and became a lay preacher and evangelist at Richlands Tabernacle; he subsequently became the pastor of Westside Holiness Church in Raven; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his long career as a minister, Mike Roberts also served and supported young people as a founding member of the Southwest Virginia Holiness Youth Camp, also known as Camp Golan; and

WHEREAS, Mike Roberts was an avid reader and a passionate historian and scholar, who spent much of his life building a library of Christian works that was second to none in the area; and

WHEREAS, predeceased by his first wife, Debra, Mike Roberts will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving wife, Connie; his sons, Aaron, Jonathan, and Benjamin, and their families; his stepchildren, Marthanna and Ashley, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Reverend Gary Michael Roberts; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Reverend Gary Michael Roberts as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

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