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1 **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212**
2 Offered March 10, 2022
3 *Celebrating the life of Robert Emerson Stephens.*
4 _____

Patron—Brewer
5 _____
6 WHEREAS, Robert Emerson Stephens, an influential member of the Suffolk community who made
7 many contributions to his fellow residents, died on December 21, 2021; and
8 WHEREAS, a native of Marianna, Arkansas, Robert Stephens served his country as a member of the
9 United States Coast Guard, was an education and training consultant to the U.S. Department of Labor,
10 and served as an advisor to a former U.S. president; and
11 WHEREAS, Robert Stephens worked as the president and chief executive officer of Genesis
12 Development and Consulting Services and later established the Saint Paul's Community Development
13 Corporation; and
14 WHEREAS, Robert Stephens also served the Suffolk community as a member of the Suffolk
15 Cultural Arts Center, Western Tidewater Free Clinic, and the Suffolk Humane Society, and Suffolk
16 Rotary Club, the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors, and the College Orientation Workshop
17 Board of Directors; and
18 WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades, Robert Stephens received the 2012 FBI Director's
19 Community Leadership Award and the 2014 Community Hero Award from the Suffolk Democratic
20 Party; and
21 WHEREAS, Robert Stephens enjoyed fellowship and worship with the congregations of Mount Sinai
22 Baptist Church in Suffolk and Main Street Baptist Church in Smithfield; and
23 WHEREAS, Robert Stephens will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 27 years,
24 Karen; his sons, Fletcher and Frank, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends;
25 now, therefore, be it
26 RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Robert
27 Emerson Stephens, a highly admired community leader in Suffolk; and, be it
28 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
29 for presentation to the family of Robert Emerson Stephens as an expression of the House of Delegates'
30 respect for his memory.