



A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE CLIFTON A. WOODRUM, III

WHEREAS, the Honorable Clifton Alexander Woodrum, III, a respected attorney and distinguished former member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1980 to 2003, died on February 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Washington, D.C., Clifton "Chip" Woodrum received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1961 where he was stalwart on the wrestling team and was awarded an LLB from the University of Virginia Law School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum returned to Roanoke to practice law at Dodson, Pence and Viar from 1964 to 1998 and then shared a law office with his brother, Lanier; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum was a member of the Roanoke, Virginia and American Bar Associations as well as the American Trial Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, the Woodrum family has had a long career in public service with Chip Woodrum's great-grandfather being elected as Roanoke City's first elected Commonwealth's Attorney and his grandfather, Congressman Clifton A. Woodrum, serving in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum continued his family's distinguished career in public service by being elected in 1979 to represent the 16th District in the House of Delegates from 1980 through 2003 where he served with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum served on the Committees on Appropriations; Claims; Commerce and Labor; Corporations, Insurance and Banking; Courts of Justice; General Laws;

Mining and Mineral Resources; Privileges and Elections; and Chaired the Virginia State Crime Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum played a pivotal role in the work of the thirty community action agencies in Virginia; and was the author of the Community Action Act that promoted their continuation and co-signed legislation for the Neighborhood Assistance Act which has encouraged private investment in projects helping low income families and communities; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Delegate's Appropriations Committee Chip Woodrum successfully advocated for state funding for the Virginia Water Project which brought water to 200,000 families; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Delegates's Appropriations Committee Chip Woodrum successfully advocated for Virginia CARES, the State's first pre and post incarceration reentry program offering hope to 30,000 former inmates; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Delegate's Appropriations Committee Chip Woodrum successfully advocated for Project Discovery which has helped over eight thousand low income students, the first in their family to go to college, to attend and complete a college education; and

WHEREAS, known for his quick wit, keen intellect, and knowledge of literature, Chip Woodrum worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to advance legislation to benefit the citizens of the entire Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary effective lawmaker, Chip Woodrum sponsored legislation in 1987 which created the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program which has provided assistance for 150 infants and their families since its creation and paid out \$12 million last year in medical expenses for infants born with serious birth-related neurological injuries; and

WHEREAS, based on Chip Woodrum's long held belief that "the access of citizens to information concerning their government and its process is crucial to a free society", he played a visionary role in the revision of Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) when he chaired a Joint Subcommittee which completed a major overhaul of FOIA that addressed advances in technology (email and other electronic records) as well as creating and chairing Virginia's FOIA Council; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum experience on the House Appropriations Committee led him to bring more sunshine into Virginia's budget process when he championed legislation in 1992 to require the Governor to submit a proposed State budget to the General Assembly almost a month earlier and required a series of public hearings to be held prior to the convening of the General Assembly to allow for a fuller and more deliberative State budget process; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum also patroned legislation that benefited the Roanoke Valley that allowed a portion of the sales tax revenue generated at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center to help finance the hotel's restoration; and

WHEREAS, in the heat of the legislative process Chip Woodrum could defuse even the most heated legislative debate with a quip that more often than not, brought laughter where there was once tension; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum, who served the people of the Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth with great dedication, fairness and compassion leaves behind a legislative legacy that continues to impact and improve the lives of Virginians today; and

WHEREAS, Chip Woodrum will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his family, friends, colleagues and the Commonwealth for his recall of history, poetry and classics which he employed with passion and a sharp wit which made him an influential voice for the less fortunate in the political and legal arenas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Roanoke Bar Association, That the Roanoke Bar Association hereby notes with great sadness the loss of an esteemed lawmaker and member of Virginia's legal community, the Honorable Clifton Alexander Woodrum III; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Roanoke Bar Association prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Honorable Clifton Alexander Woodrum, III, as an expression of the Roanoke Bar Association's respect for his memory.

Given under the hands of the president and secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 8th day of October, 2013.

Stephen W. Lemon
President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Joseph W. H. Mott
Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association