

2004 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 187

Offered February 13, 2004

On the death of Clement Conger.

Patrons—Ticer and Saslaw; Delegates: Ebbin, Moran and Van Landingham

WHEREAS, Clement Conger, a native Virginian who was curator of the diplomatic state rooms for the Department of State for more than 30 years, died on January 11, 2004; and

WHEREAS, a native of Harrisonburg, Clement Conger and his family lived in Alexandria for more than 45 years while he worked as curator of the White House and curator of Blair House in addition to his duties with the State Department; and

WHEREAS, Clement Conger joined the State Department in 1947 and served in many capacities, including two tours of duty as assistant chief and deputy chief of protocol; and

WHEREAS, Clement Conger recommended the inclusion of official reception rooms in the new State Department building and initiated the program to furnish the rooms by means of gifts and loans of period furniture; and

WHEREAS, the value of the period American furniture, historic paintings, and decorative arts in the diplomatic reception rooms is now estimated at \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, Clement Conger worked with Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Carter, and Mrs. Reagan to refurbish 27 rooms in the White House, restoring them to the elegance of the late 18th and early 19th centuries; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties with the federal government, Clement Conger served on numerous boards and commissions in Virginia, many of them concerned with historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, Clement Conger was chairman of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, vice chairman of the Governor's Mansion Committee, chairman of the Committee for the Refurbishing of the President's House at the College of William and Mary, member of the Committee of Distinguished Americans for Mt. Vernon, and chairman of the Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission for the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, during a career that lasted for more than a half-century, Clement Conger used his extraordinary abilities and expertise to leave a lasting mark on many of the finest and most historic buildings in the Commonwealth and the nation's capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with sadness the passing of an exceptional Virginian, Clement Conger; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Clement Conger as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

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