

2009 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Commending Robert E. Simon.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 26, 2009
Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2009

WHEREAS, Robert E. Simon is commended for his visionary leadership and hard work as the founder of Reston on the occasion of his 95th birthday and Reston's 45th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, a native of New York, Robert Simon was born on April 10, 1914, into a real estate management family that had many holdings of property in and around New York City; and

WHEREAS, after receiving a bachelor's degree from Harvard, Robert Simon proudly served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946 in the European Theater; and

WHEREAS, Robert Simon spent several years running his family's real estate management and development business before the sale of family property, Carnegie Hall, enabled him to purchase 6,750 acres in Fairfax County in 1961 to build Reston, based on "New Town" planning principles that stressed quality of life for community residents; and

WHEREAS, his objectives in building a New Town included the opportunity for people who live and work in the community to have the best opportunities to use their full potential of mind and body, to have the ability to stay in the community through various life and financial changes, and to have their importance and dignity considered over the importance of the community; and

WHEREAS, founded on April 20, 1964, Reston was the first modern, postwar planned community in America; Robert Simon carefully planned and zoned to allow for common grounds, parks, wooded areas, lakes, and recreational facilities in addition to a variety of housing types to accommodate different financial positions and family sizes; and

WHEREAS, Robert Simon's visionary design included the concept of village centers, where residents would be able to walk from their homes to meet their daily retail and community service needs; and

WHEREAS, today, Reston, a community of over 60,000, has five village centers and one town center where residents enjoy a high quality of life and are surrounded by nature's beauty while in the midst of a thriving metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, as part of the activities for Robert Simon's 95th birthday and the 45th anniversary of Reston, on April 18, 2009, the 2009 Reston Founder's Day Committee has planned a festive community celebration with musical performances and other entertainment for the Reston community; and

WHEREAS, Robert Simon's vision of a "New Town" led to the creation of a thriving community in the heart of Fairfax County and a model for other communities around the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Robert E. Simon, founder of Reston, on the occasion of his 95th birthday and the 45th anniversary of Reston; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Robert E. Simon as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his vision and commitment to building the community of Reston.

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