

Memorial Resolution on the Distinguished Public Service of Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr.

WHEREAS, the late Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. of Fairfax County served with honor and distinction for 28 years in the Virginia Senate representing the 36th District until his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Joe Gartlan's long career of distinguished public service demonstrated a deep commitment to the best interests of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joe time and time again distinguished himself in leadership positions in the Virginia Senate and as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission by putting principles above politics; and

WHEREAS, Joe used his Senate seniority and his chairmanships of three Senate committees – Courts of Justice; Privileges and Elections; and Rehabilitation and Social Services – along with his membership on the Rules and Finance Committees to champion the rights of the mentally and physically disabled, protect abused and neglected children, and improve the environment; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a tireless advocate of modernizing mental health laws and improving social services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Joe played a key role in galvanizing the regional efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, Joe, as described by Governor Tim Kaine, “wore his heart on his sleeve when it came to issues of social and economic justice;” and

WHEREAS, Joe's integrity, passion, conviction, and courage earned him the reputation as the heart and soul of the Virginia Senate; and

WHEREAS, Joe's mastery of extemporaneous speaking and his willingness to work across the aisles helped to build bipartisan support to move important and sometimes controversial issues forward in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Joe's political career spanned his entire adult life, from his days in 1960 working as an advance man for John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign to April 2008, only several months before his death, when he received the prestigious Community Service Award from the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a true Virginia gentleman beloved by his constituents and the less-fortunate members of our society whose causes he championed; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Senator Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. on July 18, 2008 was a loss to all those who knew him and, most importantly, to Fredona, his beloved wife of 58 years, and his six children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee and Central and Steering Committees of the Democratic Party of Virginia recognize the lifelong service and achievements of the Honorable Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. and his exemplary leadership benefiting the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee change the name of its annual Community Service Award to a Fairfax County citizen to the “Joseph Gartlan Community Service Award.”

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Virginia salutes the Honorable Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. for his invaluable contributions to the Commonwealth, and expresses our sorrow over his passing to Fredona, his children, and his grandchildren.