

SENATE RESOLUTION 42

(By Senators Morris, Smith (Mr. President), Azinger,
Barnhart, Barrett, Barlett, Chapman, Charnock,
Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton,
Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, M. Maynard, Z.
Maynard, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose,
Rucker, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis,
Woelfel and Woodrum)

[Introduced February 13, 2026]

1 Memorializing the life of the Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick, coal miner, welder, teacher,
2 businessman, Mason, former West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture, former member
3 of the West Virginia House of Delegates, former member of the West Virginia Senate,
4 statesman, and dedicated public servant.

5 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick was born April 25, 1944, at #4 mine on
6 Leatherwood Creek, near Bergoo, West Virginia, son of the late D. Walter and Cleo (Blevins)
7 Helmick; and

8 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick graduated from Webster Springs High
9 School in 1963 and furthered his education at Marshall University, West Virginia Institute of
10 Technology, University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute, Hobart Technical Center,
11 Lincoln Welding School, and Mendenhall School of Auctioneering; and

12 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick initially followed in his father's footsteps,
13 working as a coal miner and later went on to teach welding at Pocahontas County High School;

1 and

2 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick operated Allegheny Lodge Enterprises,
3 where he bottled spring water, such as “Minnehaha Mist”; and

4 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick was a 50-year Mason and was a member
5 of the Addison Lodge in Webster County before he transferred to Huntersville Lodge in
6 Pocahontas County, where he served twice as Worshipful Master; he was a member of the Valley
7 of the Charleston Scottish Rite where he received the 33rd Degree in 2011 and was also a Shriner;
8 and

9 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick was elected to the Pocahontas County
10 Board of Education and the Pocahontas County Commission and served on a multitude of other
11 local boards and organizations; and

12 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick was elected to the West Virginia House of
13 Delegates in 1988; and

14 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick was appointed to the West Virginia Senate
15 on September 13, 1989, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Larry A. Tucker; and

16 Whereas, Following his appointment to the Senate, the Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick
17 was elected to six terms: 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010; and

18 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick, during his tenure in the Senate, held the
19 following positions: Chairman, Committee on Finance, 76th, 77th, 78th, and 79th Legislatures;
20 Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, 75th Legislature; Chairman, Committee on Banking
21 and Insurance, 73rd and 74th Legislatures; Chairman, Committee on Military, 71st and 72nd
22 Legislatures; and

23 Whereas, The Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick won statewide election in 2012 and
24 resigned from the Senate on January 14, 2013, to serve one term as West Virginia Commissioner
25 of Agriculture; and

26 Whereas, Sadly, the Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick passed away on September 6,

1 2025, leaving behind a grateful state and a host of family and friends, all of whom will miss him
2 dearly; and

3 Whereas, It is fitting that the Senate pay tribute to the legacy of the Honorable Walter Dolph
4 Helmick for his many years of dedicated public service; therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate:*

6 That the Senate hereby memorializes the life of the Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick, coal
7 miner, welder, teacher, businessman, Mason, former West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture,
8 former member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, former member of the West Virginia
9 Senate, statesman, and dedicated public servant; and, be it

10 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate extends its sympathies to the family of the Honorable
11 Walter Dolph Helmick on his passing; and, be it

12 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
13 the family of the Honorable Walter Dolph Helmick.