

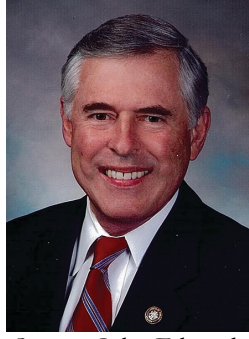
## APRIL 2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Delegate Tony Wilt

[HB2445](#)

**PAST LEGISLATOR OF THE  
YEAR**



Senator John Edwards

[SB1300](#)

**2019 LEGISLATOR OF  
THE YEAR**



Senator Jennifer McClellan

[SB1439](#)

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The 2019 General Assembly session has wrapped up with the Reconvened, or Veto, session. Governor Northam has signed companion bills [HB2445](#) and [SB1439](#), Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS), into law and they will become effective on July 1, 2019. Your VFDA Legislative Committee Chair, Jay McIntyre, has crafted informational materials for you to take to physicians who will now be required to participate on the EDRS.

While the process of requiring appropriate stakeholders use of the EDRS has been a long time coming, the efforts of your VFDA during the 2016 legislative session laid the groundwork for an EDRS workgroup to include all stakeholders that chose to participate. Since that time your VFDA has participated and provided input to improve the program. Your VFDA has made sure the EDRS is beneficial and successful for all by collaborating since that time with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Virginia Division of Vital Records (DVR), the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV), the Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association (VHHA) and many other physician and hospice care representatives.

Your VFDA leadership has worked hard to the benefit of members like you for many years. In recognition of those efforts, Senator John Cosgrove ([SR84](#)) and Speaker of the House, Kirk Cox ([HJ752](#)), each prepared Commending Resolutions to honor the leadership of your VFDA on behalf of the funeral service profession. For 132 years, your VFDA has stood out as the primary ambassadors to the General Assembly and the Administration to work toward laws and regulations, which promote honest and fair business practices and protect the funeral service profession as well as the communities we serve.

Senator John Edwards introduced [SB1300](#), which removes barriers to business for small funeral home owners who wish to grow. His bill allows one manager of record to now provide services for up to 135 families at two funeral homes owned within 50 miles of each other. He was a wonderful patron, as all our patrons are! This year at our summer convention, we will be celebrating Senator Edwards as our “Legislator of the Year!”

Our patrons for our proposed next-of-kin legislations, Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator Creigh Deeds, wonderful patrons as well; however, this year we found that we have more work to do. The good news from this is that the VFDA has begun a new relationship with the Virginia Bar Association. They are favorable to being very clear on next-of-kin hierarchy and want to work with us through 2019 to create legislation that will have more support in 2020.

The next VFDA update will follow the primaries of those legislators who are being contested by a member of their own party. As a reminder, all 140 members of the House and Senate will be up for election this coming November. Many legislators have decided to retire after many years, or simply not to run again. The General Assembly will look very different next session, and we will have a lot of people to get to know!

Remember to vote – and if you think you may be out of town for these elections, remember that you can vote by absentee ballot!

Your VFDA asks you to take a minute to email, call or write a note to the House or Senate member who represents you and simply say, “Thank you for your service to our community and the Commonwealth of Virginia!”

Angie Bezik & Julia Hammond