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PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

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VRE Mourns the Loss of First Operations Board Treasurer

Former Fairfax County Supervisor Joseph Alexander Was Instrumental in VRE's Founding

Alexandria, Va. – The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) mourns the loss of Joseph Alexander, an original member of the VRE Operations Board, who passed away on August 30 at the age of 90. Alexander, who served for 32 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, was instrumental in standing up Virginia's only commuter railroad. As the Operations Board's first treasurer, he helped VRE overcome funding shortfalls, indemnification hurdles, and opposition from private railroads. His service on the board, from 1989 to 1995, included a term as secretary in 1990 and another as treasurer in 1991.

"Joe was an early and passionate supporter of VRE," said Rich Dalton, VRE's acting CEO. "His vision and leadership, both at VRE and Metro, helped transform public transportation in Northern Virginia. Countless commuters have benefitted from his decades-long efforts to provide transportation options throughout the region."

VRE's ability to achieve its mission – by providing safe, cost effective, accessible, reliable, convenient and comfortable commuter rail service – is due in large part to Alexander's labors. [VRE honored him in 2017 by affixing "Joe Alexander" to the front of locomotive V67.](#) He is one of just 13 Operations Board members to be so honored. Alexander was similarly recognized for his 23 years of service on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, when Metro's Franconia-Springfield station was named in his honor. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, a regional body upon which Alexander served for 31 years, [will pay tribute to him at its September 3 meeting.](#)

Alexander remained active in the transportation industry until his death, having served in leadership positions at the American Public Transportation Association and the Virginia Transit Association.

The 13th largest commuter rail service in the U.S., VRE is a transportation partnership of the Northern Virginia and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commissions. The 4.5 million rides the railroad provides annually remove some 100 million vehicle miles from Northern Virginia's interstates. Learn more at www.vre.org.

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