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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 207

Offered February 22, 2010

Celebrating the life of George Chancellor Rawlings, Jr.

Patrons—Puller, Barker, Blevins, Colgan, Deeds, Edwards, Hanger, Herring, Houck, Howell, Hurt, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Marsh, Martin, McDougale, McEachin, McWaters, Miller, J.C., Miller, Y.B., Newman, Norment, Northam, Obenshain, Petersen, Puckett, Quayle, Reynolds, Ruff, Saslaw, Smith, Stosch, Stuart, Ticer, Vogel, Wagner, Wampler, Watkins and Whipple

WHEREAS, George Chancellor Rawlings, Jr., of Fredericksburg, an outstanding community leader and benefactor and a former member of the House of Delegates, died on April 22, 2009; and

WHEREAS, George Rawlings, Jr., was born in Fredericksburg on November 7, 1921; grew up in Ashland and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College; and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1947; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon passing the Virginia Bar Examination, George Rawlings returned to his hometown of Fredericksburg to begin the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious citizen and a devoted supporter of his community, George Rawlings generously gave his time and expertise to many civic organizations over the years, including as a member and president of the local and state Jaycees; as president of the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, Inc.; as a member of the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, and the Spotsylvania County Farm Bureau; as a board member of the Virginia Heart Association and Historic Fredericksburg, Inc.; as chair of the Spotsylvania Planning Commission; and as a local chapter chair of the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, George Rawlings first was elected to the House of Delegates in 1963, representing the citizens of the 67th District, which includes Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties and the City of Fredericksburg, and he was reelected in 1965 and 1967; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Rawlings quickly gained a reputation as a liberal force in the state legislature; he was a great supporter of civil and political rights for African Americans and the rights of organized labor; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Rawlings was an able lawmaker and influential member of the Democratic Caucus who worked diligently to enact important legislation for the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the House of Delegates, George Rawlings served on the Democratic National Committee and as chair of the Eighth District Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Rawlings will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving family and good friends; his colleagues on both sides of the aisle; and the citizens of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the loss of one of its admired former members, George Chancellor Rawlings, Jr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of George Chancellor Rawlings, Jr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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