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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

Offered January 8, 2014

Celebrating the life of Nathan Jacob Schnurman, Sr.

Patrons—McEachin and Watkins

WHEREAS, Nathan Jacob Schnurman, Sr., a patriotic and heroic veteran, who worked hard to support his family, his country, and his fellow veterans, died on October 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a native of Roanoke, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., was possessed of a desire to serve his country; he joined many of the other young men of his generation and enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, caring deeply for his family, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., generously sent the majority of his monthly earnings home to his mother and father; and

WHEREAS, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., proudly served as a ship's cook, preparing three meals daily for 6,000 sailors and diligently accounting for supplies ordered a full year in advance; and

WHEREAS, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., was placed in a United States Navy program to test the effectiveness of protective clothing and gas masks against chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, injured as a result of his loyal service, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., obeyed orders to keep his involvement in the program a secret and continued to gallantly serve his country through several battles in the Pacific Theater of the war; and

WHEREAS, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., remained silent for 31 years until a Navy doctor linked his declining health to the program in 1975; over the next 17 years, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., researched the program in an effort to receive appropriate medical care from the Veterans Health Administration; and

WHEREAS, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., dedicated himself to the service of other veterans suffering from similar ailments as a result of the program; he helped numerous other brave veterans obtain medical benefits, care, and compensation; and

WHEREAS, in May 1996, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., received a Certificate of Commendation from the Department of Defense, recognizing his special service and contributions to the nation; in 2010, he was a recipient of the Seventh Congressional District Veteran Commendation; and

WHEREAS, a fitting tribute to his courageous and selfless service, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., was laid to rest on November 11, 2013, Veteran's Day, the 70th anniversary of his enlistment in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Nathan J. Schnurman, Sr., will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of almost 66 years, Joy; children, Nat, Jr., Michael, Thomas, Rose, and Annie, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and fellow servicemen; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of Virginia hereby note with great sadness the loss of Nathan Jacob Schnurman, Sr., a loyal, patriotic, and selfless American; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Nathan Jacob Schnurman, Sr., as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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