

## 2018 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 118

Offered February 5, 2018

*Celebrating the life of Keith H. Emerson.*

Patrons—Norment, Ebbin, Howell, Mason, McDougale, Ruff and Spruill; Delegates: Adams, D.M., Austin, Cole, Fowler, Heretick, Hope, Knight, Krizek, Landes, Lindsey, Pogge, Rasoul, Simon, Stolle, Thomas, Turpin and Ware

WHEREAS, Keith H. Emerson, a patriotic veteran, a longtime employee of the National Park Service, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, died on February 7, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a native of Luray, Keith Emerson built strong connections with the Blue Ridge Mountains from a young age and learned the value of hard work from his father, who owned trail horses and operated the stables at the Skyland Resort; and

WHEREAS, joining many of the other young men of his generation, Keith Emerson served the nation as a member of the Third United States Army under General George S. Patton during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable military service, Keith Emerson returned home and graduated from Luray High School, then began a long and fulfilling career with Shenandoah National Park, where he retired as the foreman for buildings and utilities maintenance after 39 years; and

WHEREAS, Keith Emerson also safeguarded the lives and property of his fellow Luray residents as a volunteer firefighter and was a former commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 621; he was a proud patriot who raised the American flag over his home every day; and

WHEREAS, Keith Emerson was an avid reader who particularly enjoyed military history, and he and his wife became accomplished world travelers after his well-earned retirement in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Keith Emerson enjoyed fellowship and worship with the congregation of Luray United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Keith Emerson's wife, Gayle, died on August 17, 2017; he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by their sons, Lawrence and Philip, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Keith H. Emerson; and, be it

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

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