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## **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 208**

Offered March 5, 2020

Celebrating the life of Rino E. Balducci, Sr.

Patron-Wyatt

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WHEREAS, Rino E. Balducci, Sr., a veteran, exceptionally successful entrepreneur, and cherished member of the Hanover County community, died on December 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, born in 1926 as the 10th of 12 children to Umberto and Vienna Balducci, Rino Balducci became gravely ill with a kidney disease at age six and was not expected to live, yet persevered and recovered; and

WHEREAS, Rino Balducci began working in his father's and uncle's restaurants at the age of seven and enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17, serving for three years during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Rino Balducci returned to the restaurant business following his admirable service to the nation and owned and operated several restaurants in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Rino Balducci began his prosperous real estate career in the 1950s and worked on many developments, including the Union Bag Cafeteria, Leon's Supper Club, Rao's, and The Black Garter, among others; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Rino Balducci opened the first of his six Golden Skillet franchises, which he successfully owned and operated for nearly three decades; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Rino Balducci led the charge and was instrumental in having a historic marker erected in Highland Park, noting the many Italian families who resided there in the early 1900s through the 1960s and their contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Rino Balducci will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his devoted wife, Maria; his cherished sons, Ricky, Christopher, David, and Dennis, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Rino E. Balducci, Sr., an admired civic and business leader of Hanover County, who touched the lives of many; and, be it

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Rino E. Balducci, Sr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.