

2020 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 199

Celebrating the life of William Robert Burnette.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 2, 2020
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 3, 2020

WHEREAS, William Robert Burnette, a passionate aviator and a respected entrepreneur in Norfolk, died on February 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, William "Bill" Burnette grew up during the Golden Age of Flight and developed a passion for aviation at a young age; he completed his first solo airplane flight at the age of 14 and earned his pilot's license before his driver's license; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Newport News High School, Bill Burnette joined the other young men of his generation in service to the nation during World War II as a member of the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burnette graduated from The College of William and Mary in 1950, then returned to military service as a member of the United States Air Force Reserve during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burnette pursued a rewarding 60-year career with the Equitable Life Assurance Society and was selected as an Equitable National Honor Agent and inducted into the company's Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievements; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burnette started a second career as an entrepreneur when he helped his sons establish a self-storage company, which opened its first facility on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burnette volunteered time and leadership to a number of local organizations, and he enjoyed fellowship and worship with the Norfolk community at the Church of the Good Shepherd, where he served as a senior warden; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burnette will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of more than 50 years, Betsy; his children, William, Jr., and Michael, 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 William Robert Burnette, a respected member of the Norfolk community; and, be it

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

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