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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 922

Offered February 15, 2013

Celebrating the life of Ralph Michael Della Ratta.

Patron—Watson

WHEREAS, Ralph Michael Della Ratta, a courageous veteran and an active member of the Williamsburg community, died on July 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a native of Glen Head, New York, Ralph Della Ratta joined many of the other young men of his generation and bravely served his country during World War II, deploying to the Pacific Theater with the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, after he was honorably discharged from the service, Ralph Della Ratta returned to New York and devoted almost four decades of hard work and loyal service to the New York Telephone Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Ralph Della Ratta moved to the Commonwealth for a well-earned retirement and dedicated much of his time to following his passions and building many valued friendships in the community; and

WHEREAS, an antique clock collector, Ralph Della Ratta was a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, a nonprofit scientific organization that provides cultural and educational resources on timekeeping; and

WHEREAS, becoming an avid and accomplished golfer, Ralph Della Ratta was a member of several golf clubs in the Williamsburg area and once achieved two holes-in-one in the same year; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Della Ratta's son, Ralph, Jr., recognized his father by working to have a neonatal unit at University Hospitals of Cleveland and the reception room at the City Club of Cleveland, the oldest public speakers' forum in the country, named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Della Ratta will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of 64 years, Mary; children, Susan, Carol, and Ralph, Jr., and their families; and many other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of Ralph Michael Della Ratta, a veteran and a friend to many in the Williamsburg community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Ralph Michael Della Ratta as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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