

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 162

Celebrating the life of Darwin E. Rogers.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 25, 2016
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 4, 2016

WHEREAS, Darwin E. Rogers of Virginia Beach, a proud veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict, founder of Associated Distributors, and a devoted husband and father, died on January 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Darwin E. "Jim" Rogers was a native of Gilboa, New York, and made many friends while he was growing up in Ossining, New York; he graduated from Ossining High School and joined the United States Marine Corps in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Jim Rogers was first sent to California, where he volunteered to join the 1st Raider Battalion, known as Edson's Raiders; his unit took part in the United States' early battles in the Pacific, landing in 1942 on the island of Tulagi, the site of heavy fighting; and

WHEREAS, after being wounded on Guadalcanal, Jim Rogers recuperated in California and then joined the 4th Marine Division; he eventually returned to action in the Pacific theater, fighting on Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, Jim Rogers joined the United States Marine Corps Reserves after World War II ended; he was recalled to active service during the Korean conflict and was a tank commander training instructor in California; and

WHEREAS, when he reentered civilian life, Jim Rogers started working for Ballantine Beer in Brooklyn, New York; until then, he had been known by his nickname, "Gyp," but on his first day as a beer truck driver, his supervisor thought he said "Jim," and his new nickname stayed with him; and

WHEREAS, Jim Rogers soon advanced in the company, becoming a sales representative in Tennessee and then in Norfolk, where he worked for Best Brews, a Ballantine distributor; in 1955, Jim Rogers assumed the helm of the local company and renamed it Associated Distributors; and

WHEREAS, with a keen business sense and hard work, Jim Rogers led the distributorship as it grew to become one of the largest beverage distributors in the Commonwealth; throughout his life, he was known for his sense of honor, loyalty, and his steadfast belief that a person's handshake was his word; and

WHEREAS, one of Jim Rogers' proudest accomplishments was helping to build a schoolhouse on Tulagi, where so much fierce action took place during World War II; he remained deeply attached to the Marine Raiders all his life and was a generous donor to the unit's efforts to establish a school on the small Pacific island; and

WHEREAS, Jim Rogers, who was predeceased by his son Donald, will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Marion; children, Lynnette and D.J. "Jimmy," and their families; and many 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 Darwin E. Rogers of Virginia Beach, a proud veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict, owner of Associated Distributors, and a devoted husband and father; and, be it

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

ENROLLED

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