

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 211

Celebrating the life of David George Helmer.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 2016
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 10, 2016

WHEREAS, David George Helmer of Roanoke, a retired executive for Norfolk Southern Railway, a proud veteran of the United States military, a railroad enthusiast, and an outstanding supporter of organizations in the Roanoke Valley, died on February 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, David Helmer was born in Watonga, Oklahoma, and graduated from Oklahoma State University; he attended executive development programs at Pennsylvania State University and Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, as a second lieutenant in the United States Army, David Helmer was assigned to the Army Transportation Command in Vietnam and operated truck convoys from 1965 to 1966; he served in the military until 1980, retiring with the rank of major, and was active in the Military Officers Association of America; and

WHEREAS, David Helmer was a longtime employee of Norfolk Southern Railway and was director of costs at the time of his retirement in 2000; he was a passionate rail fan, happily traversing great distances to track live steam engines through the countryside, and he traveled every mile of Amtrak's rail routes; and

WHEREAS, many organizations and civic groups benefited from David Helmer's philanthropy and leadership, including the O. Winston Link Museum, the History Museum of Western Virginia, the Roanoke Valley Central Railway, the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, North Cross School, and his alma mater, Oklahoma State University, of which he was an ardent supporter and benefactor and provided multiple scholarships; and

WHEREAS, David Helmer, who was known for his determination, dedication, and drive, will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Grace; his children, Delta and Chris, 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 David George Helmer of Roanoke, a retired executive for Norfolk Southern Railway, a proud veteran of the United States Army, an admired community supporter who generously gave of his time and talents, 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 David George Helmer as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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