

## 2025 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 789

*Commemorating the life and legacy of David Walker.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 19, 2025

WHEREAS, David Walker, an honorable veteran of the United States Navy, died in the line of duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, a native of Portsmouth, David Walker attended I.C. Norcom High School before dropping out to join the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, on the fateful day that catapulted the United States into World War II, David Walker was 19 years old and serving as a mess attendant on the USS *California*; and

WHEREAS, the USS *California* was hit by two Japanese torpedoes and a bomb during the attack on Pearl Harbor, resulting in the death of more than 100 sailors and marines; and

WHEREAS, David Walker's body was recovered but unidentified until 2018, when remains of the unknown dead from the USS *California* were exhumed from a Navy cemetery in Hawaii and examined using modern DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, with a sample from his cousin Cheryle Stone, researchers with the POW/MIA Accounting Agency at the United States Department of Defense were able to positively identify David Walker's remains in 2024, leading to his formal burial at Arlington National Cemetery later that year; and

WHEREAS, the recent identification and proper interment of David Walker's remains have helped to bring closure for his family and have provided an opportunity for all citizens to honor and recognize his extraordinary courage and sacrifice on behalf of the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the life and legacy of David Walker hereby be commemorated in honor of his interment at Arlington National Cemetery in 2024; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the descendants of David Walker as an expression of the House of Delegates' deep respect for his heroism and service.

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