

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 966

Celebrating the life of John P. Burch, Jr.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, October 29, 2025

WHEREAS, John P. Burch, Jr., a member of the Greatest Generation who served the nation during World War II and a respected member of the community in Lynchburg, died on February 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, John Burch grew up in Lynchburg and joined the United States Army on May 7, 1943, in the midst of World War II; and

WHEREAS, John Burch received medical and surgical training at Fort Pickett in Blackstone and was assigned to the 99th General Hospital at the former Fort Ethan Allen in Burlington, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, after completing additional training, John Burch deployed to England in 1944 and set up medical aid stations at the staging areas for the impending invasion of France; and

WHEREAS, in support of the D-Day landings at Normandy, France, in June 1944, John Burch and the other members of 99th General Hospital were dropped by glider near Sainte-Mere-Eglise, eight miles behind enemy lines, and provided critical surgical care for other airborne units; and

WHEREAS, John Burch and the 99th General Hospital were subsequently ordered to establish a battlefield hospital near Reims, France, where they worked long and arduous days to care for wounded soldiers, often performing surgery in tents, churches, or other improvised spaces; and

WHEREAS, John Burch later participated in the famed Battle of the Bulge and fought in the bitter cold winter of December 1944 and January 1945; he overcame numerous challenges to serve his fellow soldiers in need and help the Allied lines withstand what would be the last major German offensive of the war; and

WHEREAS, John Burch was honorably discharged as a sergeant on November 18, 1945, and returned to Lynchburg where he attended college, then opened a business as a certified public accountant; and

WHEREAS, after his well-earned retirement, John Burch moved to Florida, where he worked as an ombudsman in surgery and recovery at a hospital in Fort Lauderdale and served the community as a volunteer; he formed the philanthropic organization Tuesday's Angels, which raised more than \$3 million to support people with AIDS and their families; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 98, John Burch returned home to Lynchburg yet again and led efforts to honor his fellow veterans with the installation of the Battlefield Cross at Monument Terrace; he was subsequently inducted into the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades for his achievements, John Burch received the French Legion of Honor (Chevalier) award, the highest military honor of France; and

WHEREAS, John Burch will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his two daughters, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of John P. Burch, Jr., an esteemed veteran and active member of the Lynchburg 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 John P. Burch, Jr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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