

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8016 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Captain Kenneth May Beyer on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kenneth May Beyer will celebrate his 100th birthday on August 14, 2020, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, commissioned in the Supply Corps of the United States Naval Reserve in June 1941, Captain Kenneth Beyer spent his twenty-first birthday aboard the USS *North Carolina*; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-five, he was transferred into the regular Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and served as the Officer in Charge of the first Special Weapons Depot in Norfolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, he spent time aboard the USS *Bennington*, an *Essex*-class aircraft carrier in the Pacific Group, as a Commander and, in 1942, during World War II, served on a secret naval mission: Project LQ; and

WHEREAS, as part of Project LQ, Captain Beyer served on the USS *Asterion* (SS *Evelyn*), which was a heavily armored decoy ship disguised as a merchant ship; its mission was to draw out the German U-boats that were just a few miles from our Eastern coastline; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Captain Kenneth Beyer wrote about his experiences aboard the USS *Asterion* (SS *Evelyn*) in a book that was subsequently published, which also honored the crew of the USS *Atik* (SS *Carolyn*), who lost all hands; and

WHEREAS, Captain Beyer's final duty assignment before retiring in 1968 was at the Defense Logistics Agency, where he was on special assignment to the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Installations & Logistics; and

WHEREAS, entering civilian life, he began his career in private industry with Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Systems; he spent most of his time in Pascagoula, Mississippi, but also completed tenures in Los Angeles, California, and Bath, Maine; before his retirement, he resided in the Washington, D.C., area, where he was employed as the Director of Liaison for the AEGIS Cruiser and the *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer program; and

WHEREAS, during his years of industry, Captain Beyer also spent time working in the Middle East, predominantly Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he was a project manager for Hughes, Bendix & Holes Narver, a contractor tasked with the construction of two military bases for the Royal Saudi Navy; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kenneth Beyer is a graduate of Oregon State University, the Harvard University Graduate School of Business, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, as he approaches his eleventh decade, Captain Beyer is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as his health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Captain Kenneth May Beyer on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.