

## House Resolution 1122

By: Representatives Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Dunahoo of the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Barr of the 103<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Mark DeLong, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. James Mark DeLong, Sr., on July 9, 2015; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLong, Sr., was born on August 6, 1920, in Gainesville, Georgia, a  
5 beloved son of Frank Wiley DeLong, Sr., and Kate Erline Maness; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
7 States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World  
8 War II, where he piloted a Martin B-26 bomber, flying 73 bombing missions, including those  
9 on D-Day over Normandy; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 12 Oak  
11 Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon  
12 with two bronze service stars; and
- 13 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant James DeLong is quoted in several books authored by Dr.  
14 Stephen Ambrose of the Eisenhower Center of New Orleans, and various articles of his  
15 uniforms are currently displayed in The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, the March  
16 Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, and the Northeast Georgia History Museum in  
17 Gainesville; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Mr. DeLong was involved in numerous civic and community organizations,  
19 including Elks, the Kiwanis Club, American Legion, and the Defense Orientation Conference  
20 Association, and he regularly volunteered to share his war experiences with schoolchildren  
21 at the Northeast Georgia History Museum; and

22 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. DeLong was an active member of First  
23 Baptist Church in Gainesville, where he served as a deacon and an active member of the  
24 Angler's Sunday school class; and

25 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage for almost 70 years to Frances Davis and  
26 was blessed with two remarkable children, Jim and Greg; five wonderful grandchildren,  
27 Mark, Scott, Laura, Allison, and Charlie; and nine amazing great-grandchildren, Elicora,  
28 Brooklyn, Madeline, Ansley, Evan, Cameron, Simon, Jude, and Thomas; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. DeLong will long be remembered for  
30 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, and friend will be missed  
31 by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Mark DeLong,  
34 Sr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
37 family of Mr. James Mark DeLong, Sr.