

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Teresa Jones of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge Teresa Jones of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a native of Byhalia, Mississippi, Teresa Jones attended Byhalia High School and received her undergraduate degree from Lane College and her law degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Teresa Jones was appointed to the bench on January 15, 2019, when she was named Memphis Municipal Judge for Division 1; she subsequently won election to that position on October 3, 2019, winning an impressive seventy-three percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Judge Jones rightfully earned the respect and admiration of her peers on the bench, the entire legal community, and the people of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a longtime public servant, Judge Jones previously served as the chief prosecutor for the City of Memphis Law Division and as a senior trial attorney and supervisor with the Law Office of the Shelby County Public Defender; she was also an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, Judge Teresa Jones was also a highly respected leader in her community, having served as a member and chair of the Shelby County Schools board of education, where she represented District 2 before stepping down to accept her judicial appointment; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jones was a champion for the children of Shelby County during her time on the school board, leading with passion and integrity in an effort to do what she believed to be in the best interest of the community; and

WHEREAS, active in the Memphis legal community, Judge Jones was a member of the board of Memphis Area Legal Services, a member and past chair of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program, and a Fellow of the Memphis Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Memphis Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Tennessee Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, a member of Midtown Church of Christ, Judge Jones was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, the NAACP Executive Committee, and the Lane College Board of Trustees and a former board member of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Judge Teresa Jones received the Mothers of the Nile Outstanding Leadership Award and the Teamsters National Black Caucus Trailblazer Award; in 2019, she was among the twelve recipients honored as the Most Outstanding Women by the Memphis Interfaith Denominational Fellowship, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jones leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember this exceptional civic leader, judge, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge Teresa Jones, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Jones.

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.