

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 34

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow at the death of Ricky Wayne Woodard of Westmoreland.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Ricky Wayne Woodard, who served as Mayor for the Town of Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who provided guidance, commiseration, and comfort to grieving families of the Westmoreland community as the owner, director, and manager of Woodard Funeral Home, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Wayne Woodard served with wisdom and alacrity in his many manifold positions with City Government for twenty-two years, as Mayor of the Town of Westmoreland for ten years, and throughout his dedicated service to bereaved loved ones for more than 30 years in which positions he earned the respect of his community and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the passing of his daughter Holly, Mr. Woodard began his professional career in funeral homes in Westmoreland and Gallatin, and earned his funeral director's license in 1992; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing his special gift to help those in mourning, Mr. Woodard returned home in 1994 to work as director and manager of the funeral home of Anderson and Goad; in 1996 he became part owner of the funeral home; and

WHEREAS, in March 2006, Ricky Wayne Woodard listened to his entrepreneurial spirit and he and his wife, Judy, purchased Woodard Funeral Home, Inc., making his dream to honor his daughter's legacy a reality; and

WHEREAS, Ricky Wayne Woodard was a dedicated civic leader who distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with copious boards and

committees, including his charter membership with the Chamber of Commerce, and membership in the Westmoreland Rotary Club, Westmoreland Lions Club, and Westmoreland High School Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ricky Wayne Woodard was born and raised in Westmoreland, and devoted the majority of his life to the community of Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, this inspiring gentleman is survived by Judy Elaine Jiles Woodard, his wife and companion of over thirty-three years; his daughter Nicole Woodard Graves; his granddaughter, Kalista Graves, who is said to have brought the twinkle to his eyes; his brother Larry Woodard, and his wife Josie; his sisters Joyce Smith, and her husband Bill; Linda Collins, and her husband Calvin; Doris Smith, and her husband Edward; Karen Simons, and her husband Chubby; and Janice Stinson; and his mother-in-law Frances Jiles; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Holly Fran Woodard; his parents, H.E. and Nellie Woodard; his brother Buddy Woodard; his father-in-law Hubert Jiles; and his uncles, C.C. Woodard and Charles Woodard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ricky Woodard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ricky Wayne Woodard, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his 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 Mr. Woodard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.