

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

By Curcio

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former District Public Defender Claudia Jack of the 22nd Judicial District.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Claudia Jack; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jack served with acumen and alacrity as the District Public Defender for the 22nd Judicial District for twenty years, in which position she earned the trust and admiration of her peers and the public for her dedication and ability; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Maury County community, Claudia Jack was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens and clients in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jack was born in Lebanon, Missouri, in 1943; she attended Auburn University, receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in English Education in 1965 and her Master of Education degree in 1966; and

WHEREAS, she began her career in education as an eighth-grade teacher at Auburn Junior High School in Auburn, Alabama, before moving to Columbia, Tennessee, in 1966 to serve as the inaugural faculty member of the English Department of Tennessee's first community college, where she served on the faculty until 1969; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty-seven, Claudia Jack decided to attend law school; she obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1983, after having served as an associate editor of *Vanderbilt Law Review* and a member of the Moot Court Board and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jack clerked for Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William J. Harbison before practicing in the law offices of Billy C. Jack as an associate; she served as assistant district attorney for Tennessee in the child support and welfare fraud division and was a named partner at Jack and Jack from 1986 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Claudia Jack was elected as District Public Defender for the 22nd Judicial District, serving Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne counties, a position to which she was re-elected three times and in which she was still serving at the time of her death. Mrs. Jack was admitted to practice to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit; the U.S. Middle District Court; the United States Tax Court; and the Supreme Court of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Mrs. Jack was referred to as both a legend and a giant, garnering local, statewide, and national respect for her commitment to the practice of law, her advocacy for her clients while in the office of public defender, and her encouragement of the next generation of attorneys through her support of high school and college students; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Jack was involved in a multitude of professional, civic, and social organizations and endeavors, contributing to each her passion, commitment to excellence, wisdom, and determination to constantly and consistently serve her community. She served in both Leadership Maury and Tennessee Leadership, Kiwanis, and Columbia Business and Professional Women's Club, as well as in a number of organizations dedicated to improving the well-being of children, including the Maury County Just Say No Community Prevention Network, the Maury County Public Library, the James K. Polk Memorial Auxiliary, an organization dedicated to the support and maintenance of the President James K. Polk ancestral home, and the Guided Circle of King's Daughters; and

WHEREAS, her other civic and professional memberships included Volunteer Garden Club, Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, Tennessee State Museum, Maury County Creative Arts Guild, Cumberland Museum and Science Center, American Association of University Professors, American Association of University Women, Auburn Alumni Association, Vanderbilt Law School Alumni Association, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, and Maury

County Democrats. She also tirelessly raised funds for the Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Maury County Hospital Pediatric Ward at Maury County Hospital, the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, and the Maury County Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, a woman of immense faith, Mrs. Jack was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for nearly four decades; and

WHEREAS, she was most grateful for the love and companionship she shared with her husband of thirty-seven years, Billy Jack, and the relationships she shared with her children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Claudia Jack demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of members of the bar, the bench, and her community alike; and

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

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

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

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