

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Charles E. Gibbs, Jr., of Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Reverend Charles E. Gibbs, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gibbs was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gibbs began his Christian education at Hampton-Dubose Academy in Zellwood, Florida; he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Education in 1957 from Columbia Bible College and then attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received an advanced degree in divinity in 1961; he later attended the Criswell School of Prophets in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Reverend Charles Gibbs was ordained into the Gospel Ministry by Dawson Memorial Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, beginning his nearly sixty-year career in the ministry; that same year, he became the pastor of Collinsville Baptist Church in Collinsville, Alabama, where he served until 1966, when he became the pastor of First Baptist Church of Pratt City in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, after visiting twelve countries, including the Holy Land, in conjunction with the Baptist World Alliance, Reverend Charles Gibbs was called as pastor by Silverdale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, where he served for six years; in 1976, he was called as pastor by Donaldson View Baptist Church in Nashville, where he served for two years; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, he became the pastor of First Baptist Church of Jamestown, and he also hosted an evening devotional called "Five Minutes with the Parson" each night on the

town's local radio station; four years later, Reverend Gibbs became the pastor of North Athens Baptist Church in Athens, where he served until 1986; and

WHEREAS, as the pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church in New Johnsonville, Reverend Charles Gibbs oversaw the building of a new educational space, which greatly increased the capacity for Sunday School and church fellowship; in 1995, he became the pastor of First Baptist Church of Byrdstown, where he served until his first retirement in 2002; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, Reverend Charles Gibbs moved to Cookeville and continued to preach as a supply pastor around Middle Tennessee; Etter Baptist Church asked him to supply with regularity such that, in 2005, he became the church's interim pastor, in which capacity he served until 2010, when he retired for the second time and was named Pastor Emeritus by the church; and

WHEREAS, after his final retirement, Reverend Gibbs became an active and devout member of First Baptist Church of Cookeville, where he served as a watch care member and taught a co-educational senior adult Sunday School class, while continuing on as a supply preacher in many churches in the area; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles Gibbs was highly respected among his peers in the ministerial community; he served as the chairman of evangelism and the director of the Samford University Extension Center for the Dekalb Baptist Association; a member of the Board of Trustees for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, which he served as chairman for two years; president of the interdenominational Fentress County Ministerial Association for three years; and a member of the Board of Trustees of Belmont University; and

WHEREAS, he was active in the Truett Baptist Association, serving for three years as moderator and for two years as chairman of evangelism; he was likewise active in the Riverside Baptist Association, serving as a member of the Sunday School Assist Team before serving as moderator and Sunday School director from 1998 to 2000; in 1998, he participated in the commencement ceremonies at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles Gibbs was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gibbs is survived by his loving wife of fifty-nine years, Carol Jean Kennerly Gibbs; his son, Charles Wayne Gibbs; his daughter, Joan Carol Gibbs Pritchard; his

grandchildren, Carol-Ann Gibbs, Mary-Olivia Gibbs, Caleb Maxson, and Charles-Frederick Gibbs; and his sisters, Olivia Gibbs Redford and Dorothy Gibbs Sanders; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gibbs 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 the members of 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Reverend Charles E. Gibbs, Jr., 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 Reverend Gibbs.

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