

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Dean

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gene Roberts, former Mayor of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Roberts; and

WHEREAS, he 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, Gene Davis Bryan Roberts is most well known for serving with acumen and alacrity as the Mayor of Chattanooga, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born to the late William and Pearl Roberts, Gene was a native Chattanooga; he was a graduate of City High School and the University of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, as a young man he dedicated himself to this great country and served in the United States Navy during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure in the Navy, Mr. Roberts returned to Chattanooga to work as a reporter and copy editor at the Chattanooga News Free Press; he went on to work as a public information officer for Mayor P.R. Olgiati; and

WHEREAS, for three years, Mr. Roberts worked as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, eventually Mr. Roberts would continue on to serve four terms as mayor of Chattanooga; he held the position from 1983-1997 and was awarded the Mayor of the Year award from the Tennessee Municipal League in 1989; and

WHEREAS, he was influential in the development of the waterfront district, including the construction of the Tennessee Aquarium and the preservation of the Walnut Street Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts also served as city police commissioner and state safety commissioner; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, where he served faithfully for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-nine years, Cherrie Morrison Roberts, and was the proud parent of Robert, William, and Amelia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts will also be sorely missed by his brother, Morris; sister, Helene; grandchildren, Devin, Gianna, Katheryn, Katelyn, and Emily; along with a host of other family, friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, he served his country in various capacities, and came back to make an substantial impact on his hometown, Mayor Roberts' contributions to the city of Chattanooga and the state of Tennessee will not soon be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gene Davis Bryan Roberts, 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. Roberts.

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