

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 141

By Dean

A RESOLUTION to recognize Reverend William "Billy" Dean on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has been exceptionally fortunate during its history to benefit from the outstanding leadership provided by those committed Ministers of the Gospel who lead churches across this State and who, with their congregations, provide the bedrock strength that defines an orderly and just society; and

WHEREAS, one such committed pastor and church leader is Reverend William "Billy" Dean, who faithfully shepherds the flock at Frawley Road Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after having dedicated more than sixty years to the ministry, Reverend Dean will be taking a much deserved retirement from his position as a fulltime pastor on March 29, 2009; and

WHEREAS, born September 20, 1930, to parents James Thomas and Kate Dean, Billy Dean gave his life to the Lord at the age of nine in a small country church in Soddy Daisy; and

WHEREAS, a 1950 graduate of Kirkman Vocational High School, Mr. Dean attended Tennessee Temple University and Cleveland State Community College before graduating from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dean felt the Lord calling him and, at age seventeen, pastored a small church, Shanty Town Baptist, on Sand Mountain; Billy Dean would ride the bus to Trenton and walk up the mountain to church for morning and evening services on Sunday, then take the bus back to Chattanooga on Monday morning; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dean went on to pastor eight Baptist churches within a one-hundred-mile radius of Chattanooga, while also serving with acumen and alacrity for twenty-eight years as a detective with the Chattanooga Police Department; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career with the Chattanooga Police Department, Mr. Dean was widely respected for his work with juveniles and runaways, and he served with great probity as the Director of the Crime Prevention Division before his retirement in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, members of Frawley Road Baptist Church approached Billy Dean and asked him to serve as an interim pastor to help the church get through some difficult times; Reverend Dean answered the call and, for seventeen years, the church has continued to be truly blessed by his outstanding leadership; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Billy Dean's remarkable success as a pastor and as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Billy Dean is grateful for the love and support he has received from his beloved wife of more than fifty years, Jo, and their son, Vince, whom they adopted in 1962; not only is Mr. Dean known as "The Greatest Dad in the World," he is also known as "PaPa B" by his two beautiful granddaughters, Olivia and Sallie Kate; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dean exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Reverend Billy Dean has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Reverend William "Billy" Dean our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

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