

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 175

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ellen Lee Abbott of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ellen Lee Abbott; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Abbott was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional whose work in the criminal justice system improved the lives of countless people across this State; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, Ellen Abbott had served as the Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in which capacity she worked on the front lines to make sure Tennesseans with mental health and substance abuse challenges received necessary treatment; and

WHEREAS, an innovator in her field, Ms. Abbott was passionate about creating restorative options for people in the criminal justice system; she played a vital role in the development and success of the State's Recovery Courts, including drug courts, veterans courts, mental health courts, and safe baby courts, which are now available in most of the State's ninety-five counties, and she was eagerly anticipating the opening of the new women's residential recovery court; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Harpeth Hall School, Ellen Abbott received her bachelor's degree from Auburn University; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish her memory are her husband, Thomas "Tommy" Pollard; her daughters, Anna Rebecca Abbott, Courtney Elizabeth "Wookie" (Mark) Mitchell, and Laura Katherine "Lolly" Abbott; and her bonus children, Zachary Pollard, Austin Pollard, Clayborn Pollard, and Zoey Pollard; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Abbott will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her mother, Joyce Garner Lee; her sisters, Teresa "Tiger" Lee (Brad) Williams, Lisa Joyce Lee, and Sarah Lee (Jamie) Mills; her sister-in-law, Laura Lee; seven nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her father, Dr. Joel Lee, and her brother, Anthony Joel Lee, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Abbott leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ellen Lee Abbott, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Ms. Abbott.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.