

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 184

By Capley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Howard "HoJo" Johnston of Lawrence County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Howard "HoJo" Johnston; and

WHEREAS, a photographer who documented life in Lawrence County for forty-four years, Howard Johnston was an exemplary gentleman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, HoJo Johnston enjoyed an illustrious career in the newspaper industry as a photographer, beginning at the *Democrat-Union* before joining the *Lawrence County Advocate* in 1988; and

WHEREAS, a well-known face across Lawrence County, Mr. Johnston got his start shooting sporting events at local ball parks, and athletes in action became his favorite subject; many a photo taken by him was proudly displayed on the refrigerators of Lawrence County parents showcasing their little athletes; and

WHEREAS, during his career, HoJo Johnston attended every ribbon-cutting, presentation, and event of any kind taking place in Lawrence County on a single day; his self-estimated output tallied about 1,000 photos a week; and

WHEREAS, early in his career, Mr. Johnston also worked as an employee for Murray Ohio, where he served with acumen and alacrity, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and supervisors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country as a citizen soldier, he was a member of the National Guard's 118th Public Affairs Detachment and retired with the title of Senior Photographer and the rank of Staff Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, known by his fellow soldiers as "Sergeant HoJo," he used that as his permanent byline; he spent five months in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm and served shorter tenures overseas in Belgium, Germany, and the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Howard Johnston was honored as the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2001; and

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

WHEREAS, a loving father and grandfather, he is survived by his son, Bruce Johnston; daughter, Kerry Johnston Pratt; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters, Sandy Calvert and Gloria Thomas; and friend and caregiver Richard Bivins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnston 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Howard "HoJo" Johnston, 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. Johnston.

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.