

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 427

By Jones

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Charles Kimbrough for his outstanding community leadership.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of the members of this General Assembly to acknowledge those venerable Tennesseans who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety to fight to ensure the individual and collective freedom of oppressed groups across the nation; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished individual is Dr. Charles Kimbrough, a civil rights activist, former president of the Nashville branch of the NAACP, military veteran, retired veterinarian, and minister; and

WHEREAS, born on June 24, 1927, in Prospect, Dr. Kimbrough grew up during the height of the vicious and brutal Jim Crow South, relatively close to Pulaski, the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan. He learned early on from his family the value of hard work, perseverance, and determination; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of the Korean War, Dr. Kimbrough traveled extensively while enlisted in the armed forces and learned French while stationed in France. He earned a Purple Heart, Medical Combat Award, and Bronze Star in 1950 for his bravery while serving; and

WHEREAS, following the conclusion of his military service, he used the GI Bill to attend Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University, graduating in 1956 with honors and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Dr. Kimbrough went on to enroll in the Tuskegee Institute, where he earned a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, becoming one of the first African Americans to hold a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee, Dr. Kimbrough introduced scores of African Americans to the NAACP and its mission to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes; and

WHEREAS, he established and organized NAACP chapters in Sparta, Illinois (Randolph County Branch); Dugoin, Illinois (Perry County Branch); Pulaski (Giles County Branch); and Waverly (Waverly Branch); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough served as president of the Nashville branch from 1973 to 1980, during which time he saw a surge in chapter membership. The increase in numbers at the time assisted greatly in addressing civil rights issues within the local African-American community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Kimbrough was also a devoted and compassionate minister, who touched thousands of lives through his sermons. He and his wife, Dr. Blondell Strong Kimbrough, also owned Bordeaux Realty Plus; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud father of son Reverend Adric Winters Kimbrough; special sons Jeff Strong, Sanford Strong, and Jeffrey Brown; and daughter Gwenell Buchanan; and the devoted grandfather of five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Kimbrough truly embodies the volunteer spirit, and he has done much to contribute to the well-being of his fellow citizens in various capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough is a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and most worthy of our approbation; 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 and commend Dr. Charles Kimbrough for his manifold contributions to his fellow Tennesseans, extending our best wishes for continued success in all 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.