

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 455

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ruth Holmberg of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ruth Holmberg; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg served with acumen and alacrity as publisher of *The Chattanooga Times* from 1964 to 1992, in which position she earned the respect of her staff and readership alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, born Ruth Rachel Sulzberger in New York, Mrs. Holmberg was the granddaughter of Adolph Ochs, the nineteenth-century patriarch of *The Chattanooga Times* and the owner and publisher of *The New York Times* in the early decades of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holmberg worked as a reporter at *The New York Times* while attending high school and was a graduate of Smith College; and

WHEREAS, she moved to Chattanooga in 1946 following her service as a Red Cross nurse in England and France during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holmberg began her career with *The Chattanooga Times* as an art and theater critic; during her tenure as publisher, she led the newspaper through turbulent times as it supported a number of social issues, including civil rights, social tolerance, public education, women in leadership, nature, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in her community, Ruth Holmberg served a number of leadership roles in the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Association, the Hunter Museum of

American Art, the Chattanooga Urban League, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; she was devoted to downtown renewal and took great pride in Chattanooga's twenty-first century renaissance; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holmberg served on the board of both The New York Times Co. and The Associated Press and as president of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and chair of the Times Printing Co. from 1992 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mrs. Holmberg was named Tennessee Woman of the Year in 2003. In 2014, the ArtsBuild established The Ruth Holmberg Arts Leadership annual award to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the arts in Chattanooga and is actively engaged in the city's cultural life; the first award was presented to Mrs. Holmberg in recognition of her tireless support of the arts and cultural community in Chattanooga; and

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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holmberg was preceded in death by her two husbands, Ben Hale Golden and William "Bill" Holmberg; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg was the proud and devoted mother of three sons, Michael Golden, Arthur Golden, and Stephen Golden, and one daughter, Lynn G. Dolnick; and

WHEREAS, she is further survived by one sister, Marian Heiskell; three stepdaughters, Jeanne Johnson, Elin Holmberg-Rowland, and Meg Duckworth; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and numerous step-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ruth Holmberg, 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 Mrs. Holmberg.

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