

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 468

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Rev. W. L. Reid.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Reid; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rev. W. L. Reid was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Reid lived a life that many would describe as difficult and hardship-ridden; however, he chose to use his experiences to transform his life into something meaningful; and

WHEREAS, Willie Louis Reid was born on a cold December night in 1929; the birth of this healthy baby boy simultaneously brought great joy and tremendous pain to his father, William E. Reid; and

WHEREAS, regrettably, Willie's mother, Norvella Reid, passed away as a result of complications from childbirth; and

WHEREAS, Willie Louis Reid was nursed and nurtured by his father's sister, Minnie, who was nursing her own child, Henry E. Campbell, as well; and

WHEREAS, at age ten, young Willie experienced another harrowing incident and had to be rescued from a burning building by his father; and

WHEREAS, Willie and his brothers were fortunate to have loving and supportive people in their lives; and

WHEREAS, they were brought up by sharecroppers who had no children of their own; Uncle Hardy and Momma Vanna, as they were affectionately known, raised the boys to be hard workers; and

WHEREAS, Willie Reid eventually confessed and professed Jesus Christ as his Risen Lord and joined St. Luke Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Reid went on to serve in the United States Air Force and made a name for himself as a man of spiritual and moral integrity; and

WHEREAS, his love of God and the Bible became a lifelong learning experience; he studied at various Christian Colleges and Universities, culminating in a doctorate degree in church ministries from Andersonville Seminary; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the devoted companionship of Ada Wright Reid for more than forty years, before her passing; and later benefited from the loving support of Dr. Evangelist Erlin Ellena Gooch, who he married in his latter years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Reid is also the proud parent of a daughter, Debra Gisselle; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rev. W. L. Reid 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 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Rev. W. L. Reid, 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 Dr. Reid.

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