

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 737

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. David Millhorn of Knoxville.

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Millhorn was vice president emeritus at the University of Tennessee as well as the university's adviser to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, an intrepid leader who was responsible for creating innovative industry partnerships, pioneering scientific ventures, establishing new institutes, and achieving nationally recognized success for both institutions; and

WHEREAS, born on June 25, 1945, in Chattanooga, David Millhorn graduated from Tyner High School and went on to serve his country as a member of the United States Army Airborne Division; a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, he earned two Bronze stars and a Senior Parachutist Badge during his service and had more than 500 parachute jumps to his credit; and

WHEREAS, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1974, thereafter obtaining his master's degree from Emory University in 1976 and his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1978; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1994, Dr. Millhorn was a professor in the Department of Physiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; he served as the inaugural director of the University of Cincinnati's Genome Research Institute and chairman of its Department of Genome Science during his employment from 1994 until 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Dr. David Millhorn returned to his native Tennessee, joining the University of Tennessee (UT) Administration as the Vice President for Research; in 2007, he

added the duties of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, serving in these roles until 2016. Additionally, he served as President of UT Research Foundation from 2014 until the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at UT, Dr. Millhorn oversaw multiple unprecedented achievements for the University's research enterprise, among them UT's contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to manage Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in partnership with Battelle Memorial Institute of Ohio, earning two five-year contract extensions, the first in 2010 and the other in 2015; and

WHEREAS, he also led implementation of the Governor's Chairs program with joint UT-ORNL appointments for world-class scientists, seventeen of whom are now the leading researchers in their respective fields; led the collaborative UT-ORNL team that won a \$65 million National Science Foundation grant in 2008 to build what was then the world's fastest supercomputer, which signaled the arrival of UT-ORNL as a global leader in supercomputing capability; and spearheaded the planning, development, and construction of the UT Cherokee Farm Innovation Campus in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Millhorn helped garner a \$135 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy for UT-ORNL to create the Bioenergy Science Center; the State contributed an additional \$70 million to the biofuel project, which in turn led to a large investment by DuPont. His office also had oversight responsibility of the State's Solar Institute grant worth \$62 million and a National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant for \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Millhorn's leadership, UT-ORNL won a national competition to create the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation; this \$259 million award involved several states and over 120 advanced manufacturing companies. The U.S. Department of Energy contributed \$70 million to the project, which at that time was the single largest award of its type made by the federal government, and the grant, in sum, was the largest research award ever received by UT; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Millhorn was often duly honored for his many contributions to UT-ORNL; in 2017 he was given the East Tennessee Economic Council's "Muddy Boot Award," named in honor of Oak Ridge's Manhattan Project founders, and that same year, he was presented with UT Research Foundation's highest honor for technology transfer and commercialization leadership, the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award, and was honored by ORNL at the annual UT-Battelle Awards; and

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

WHEREAS, he was the dedicated husband of his wife of nearly forty-nine years, Sherry Millhorn; he was the loving father of three daughters, Amy Stewart, Emily Olukalns, and Lauren Batten, and the proud grandfather of six grandchildren, Sydnie and Madeline Stewart, Jackson and David Olukalns, and Millie and Tennessee Batten; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Millhorn 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. David Millhorn, 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. Millhorn.

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