

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 813

By Fritts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Babette Ann "Babs" Antoniak.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Babette Ann "Babs" Antoniak; and

WHEREAS, Babette Antoniak 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, Ms. Antoniak was born on June 19, 1941, in Fort Wayne, Indiana; she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Florida and a master's degree in history from The Citadel; and

WHEREAS, she began her writing career at the CBS Network in Atlanta, and after participating in the "Writing and Reading for Civic Education" program at Harvard University, she published the award-winning *A War to Safeguard Students as Citizens*; and

WHEREAS, Babette Antoniak earned legal knowledge as a certified paralegal and her work experience at the Ron Motley Law Firm, the subject of the Al Pacino film *The Insider*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Antoniak wrote for both newspapers and the government; she was a feature writer for *Roane County News* and a nonfiction crime writer; and

WHEREAS, additionally, she dedicated a number of years to teaching English in Charleston, South Carolina, and Memphis and at Roane County High School; in the 1970s, she coached the girls' basketball team at the old Emory Gap School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Antoniak was a highly valued member of her community and a former member of several local organizations, including the Oak Ridge Community Theatre, St.

Andrews Episcopal Church of Harriman, and Redeemer Lutheran Church of Harriman; additionally, she was director of public relations at Chamberlain Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, she was also a former member of the Oak Ridge Gun Club and a state champion in women's skeet shooting; and

WHEREAS, Babette Antoniak was deeply devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by her sons, Thor K. Wilson and Karl O. Wilson; her brother, Edwin A. Steinhauser; her nephew, Nicholas Steinhauser; and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Antoniak was preceded in death by her former spouses, Dr. Robert E. Wilson and J. Polk Cooley; her niece, Hanna Grace Steinhauser; her granddaughter, Margaret Gabrielle Wilson; and her parents, Esther Cecelia Ballard Steinhauser and Carl Christian Steinhauser; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Antoniak 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Babette Ann "Babs" Antoniak, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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.