

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 821

By Capley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Phillip Sharp of Ethridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Phillip Sharp; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp was a highly respected member of his community and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, John Sharp was born in Waterloo, Alabama, and moved to Ethridge at the age of nine with his family, who had purchased farmland in Ethridge after their Alabama farm was bought by the TVA to create Pickwick Lake; and

WHEREAS, after the unexpected death of their father, then twelve-year-old John Sharp and his siblings were tasked with running the family farm;

WHEREAS, shortly after graduating from high school, Mr. Sharp began working in the shipping department at Murray Ohio Manufacturing Company, where he went on to serve with acumen and alacrity for the next seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, John Sharp founded Sharp Transport in 1979, which, over the course of forty-two years, became one of the largest family-owned truckload fleets in Middle Tennessee and employed hundreds of people, many of whom became like family to him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp continued to farm throughout his life, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and hay; he also loved Tennessee Walking horses and raised hundreds of horses over the years; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of sixty-four years, Rebecca Bonner Sharp; three daughters, Ginger Sharp (Bill) Stutts, Angie Sharp (John) Ezell, and Allie Sharp Schwalb; one sister, Jo Carolyn Hudson; one brother, Ben Sharp; seven grandchildren, Chase (Jordan) Adkins, Matthew Adkins, Balee Schwalb, Libby Schwalb, Victoria O'Hara, Nellie

Kate Ezell, and Jackson Ezell; six great-grandchildren, Charlie Kate Adkins, Ellie Reese Adkins, Emmett Ann Adkins, Braxton Adkins, Annie Beth Adkins, and Layla O'Hara; and special "adopted" grandson, employee, and caregiver, Enos Mast; and

WHEREAS, John Sharp was preceded in death by his parents, Ben Faires and Pearl Bell Balentine Sharp; one brother, Lawrence Sharp; and one grandson, Andy Adkins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Phillip Sharp, 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 Mr. Sharp.

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.