

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 843

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Don Spain of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Don Spain; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spain 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, a distinguished political photojournalist and successful businessman, Don Spain was the senior member of the Capitol Hill Press Corps, having covered the actions of Tennessee state government for more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, known to citizens across the State of Tennessee, Mr. Spain was the owner of Capitol Media Service and the producer of *Legislative Report*, the long-running weekly recap of activities in the Tennessee General Assembly which was broadcast statewide on public television stations; and

WHEREAS, a native of Old Hickory, Tennessee, Mr. Spain began his career in broadcasting in 1957 at WKRM in Columbia, Tennessee, where he served as announcer, program director, and news director until 1966. His tenure at WKRM was interrupted for two years when he was called to serve in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, joining WSM-TV in Nashville in 1966 as the station's night news editor, Don Spain also worked as a correspondent for the Associated Press and *The Tennessean* during this same time; and

WHEREAS, entering civil service with the State of Tennessee for a time, Mr. Spain served as the director of public relations for the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Tennessee

Department of Safety during the early 1970s before returning to WSM-TV to serve as assistant news director; and

WHEREAS, venturing into the business realm in 1975, Don Spain established the Tennessee News Service Inc.; this led to the formation of the Tennessee Radio Network, the Kentucky Network, and the South Carolina Network which provided news, sports, and agriculture programming to 300 radio stations; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his business acumen and admired by his peers, Mr. Spain served as vice president of the National Association of State Radio Networks in 1979; and

WHEREAS, expanding his horizons yet again, Don Spain established Capitol Media Services in 1980, serving as president from that time until his recent death; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Don Spain enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Doris, and was the proud father of one son, Jason Spain; and

WHEREAS, Don Spain was a trusted professional who rightfully earned the respect of everyone on Capitol Hill, including legislators, legislative staff, and lobbyists, as well as his media colleagues, for the exceptional quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spain 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 truly exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Don Spain, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his extraordinary contributions to the people of Tennessee, 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. Don Spain.

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