

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 890

By Mitchell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gail Kerr of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Gail Kerr; and

WHEREAS, a longtime columnist for *The Tennessean*, Gail Kerr 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, a Nashville native who grew up in Donelson, Gail Kerr started her career in journalism while still in high school, working as a “copy girl” at *The Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, returning home to Nashville after graduating from Rhodes College in Memphis in 1983, Gail Kerr also returned to *The Tennessean*, where she served as a beat reporter, team leader, and city editor; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Gail Kerr was named the local columnist for *The Tennessean* and quickly rose to the challenge, never afraid to address controversial issues, voice the concerns of the common folk, or hold those in charge accountable for their actions or lack thereof as she took the greater good of her hometown to heart; and

WHEREAS, she wrote against a proposal to require Metro Nashville to do business in English only, which voters soundly defeated in 2009, and just recently took Nashville leaders to task with a scathing column condemning their actions in withholding a lengthy report on domestic violence and publishing instead a much shorter and less alarming version; and

WHEREAS, a kind and compassionate woman, Gail Kerr greatly cherished her role as columnist saying, “Three times a week, I get to write commentary on anything and everything that affects my wonderful city of Nashville. I’m captain of the Lucky Dawg Club.”; and

WHEREAS, Gail Kerr was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Gail Kerr enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Les Kerr, a musician; and

WHEREAS, she will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her mother, Peggy McKnight; her sister, Joyce McLean; her two nephews, Keith and Craig McLean; and her niece, Alijana McLean; and

WHEREAS, Gail Kerr 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 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 Gail Kerr, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Gail Kerr.

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