

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1006

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mike Servais of Mt. Juliet.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mike Servais; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant and consummate professional, Mr. Servais worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Milton Eli Servais and Audrey V. Chambers Servais, Mike Servais was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and grew up in Nashville; he graduated from Maplewood High School in 1962 as a member of the school's inaugural graduating class; and

WHEREAS, Mike Servais honorably served his nation as a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1970, serving with integrity and valor as a combat correspondent in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Servais was a graduate of Peabody College, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science, and the University of Tennessee, where he earned a Master of Public Administration degree; in 1976, he received a Juris Doctor degree from the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Mike Servais began a fifteen-year tenure as the executive director of Buddies of Nashville, which later became Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee; during this time, he also operated a faith-based halfway house for men recently released from prison; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 to 1995, he served as executive director of Opportunity House, Inc., and was instrumental in founding and directing the first 24-hour child protective services program in the United States, which was originated in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, deeply admired for his decades-long association with The Salvation Army, Mr. Servais evinced a Salvation Army heritage that spanned three generations—a commitment rooted in The Salvation Army's provision of life-saving aid that sustained his forebears during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Mike Servais retired as Executive Director of Marketing and Resource Development for the Nashville Area Command of The Salvation Army; he continued to serve the organization in the role of community relations director after his official retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Servais also served with distinction as executive director of The Salvation Army's Red Shield Family Initiative from its inception in 1998, directing its expansion into The Salvation Army Northeast Family Resource Center; prior to that, he spent three years in Knoxville as marketing and development director for The Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Mike Servais was a graduate of the first class of Leadership Nashville (1976) and served on the board of Leadership Nashville Alumni Association; he also contributed his time and talents to a number of nonprofit boards, councils, and commissions, including the boards of East Nashville Cooperative Ministry and Bootstraps Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Servais's professional expertise and devotion to public service inspired countless civic and business leaders to support the important work of The Salvation Army, and his remarkable talent as an orator led to his becoming a nationally renowned public speaker; and

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

WHEREAS, Mike Servais enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Linda Jo Servais, and he was the proud father of Jay (Melissa) Servais and Buffy Jo (Tony) Bradley; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his honorary sister, Nancy (Jim) Powell, and his grandchildren, Hunter Servais, Jake Servais, Hailee Servais, Levi Servais, Savannah Grace Bradley, Katie Bradley, and Noah Bradley; and

WHEREAS, Mike Servais 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 even as we mourn his passing and honor his memory, we celebrate the bountiful life of Mike Servais, 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. Servais.

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