

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1039

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Martha Ann Cassell Lee
of Ringgold.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Martha Ann Cassell Lee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee 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, Martha Lee was born in Chattanooga on April 22, 1950, to Cecil and Betty Cassell; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee attended elementary, junior high, and high school in East Ridge and was a graduate of East Ridge High School; and

WHEREAS, after completing barber school in Knoxville, Mrs. Lee worked as a barber for forty-five years in East Ridge, working alongside her husband, brother-in-law, and nephew for many years at the East Ridge Barber Shop until she was not able to work; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee was an active and devout member of the Gospel Way Baptist Church and a woman of deep and abiding faith in God; and

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

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her father, Cecil Cassell, and a brother, Terry Cassell; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee is survived by her loving husband of forty-five years, Jerry R. Lee; her son, Jerry R. Lee, Jr.; her granddaughter, Mariah Lee; her mother, Betty; and her siblings, Tim, Becky, and Diane; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2013, Mrs. Lee continued to work until May 2015, often putting others before herself, never being concerned or worried about herself because of her faith; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lee 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, to honor her memory, Mrs. Lee's family would like to emphasize the need and importance of registering in a bone marrow registry such as Be the Match[®] and the importance of making a commitment to answer the call when someone needs a bone marrow transplant; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 14,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell; 7,000 people die each year because they can't find a match; seventy percent of all patients who need a transplant don't have a matched donor in their family, yet the cure for these terrible diseases is in the hands of ordinary people; 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 encourage the people of the State of Tennessee to register to become lifesaving donors for their fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Martha Ann Cassell Lee, 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 Mrs. Lee.

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