

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1053

By Chism

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dorothy Henderson Chism Joyner of Shelby County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dorothy Henderson Chism Joyner; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Joyner 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, born in Shelby County on March 8, 1927, Ms. Joyner was the youngest daughter of Scnear Henderson and Blanche Garner Henderson; she grew up in Tillatoba, Mississippi, where she loved spending time with her grandmother, "Ma Callie," and her sisters, Marzetta, Lois, and R.L.; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Joyner attended Frank Leigh School, where she played basketball and ran track, and graduated with honors in cosmetology from Allura Beauty School in downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 1942, she was joined in holy matrimony with Ray Chism; this union was blessed with nine sons and four daughters, all of whom were brought up in a loving Christian home; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Joyner was known as the "Beauty Queen of Orange Mound" for her sense of style and impeccable ability to enhance her hair; she also earned herself the moniker "Momma Cooking Chism" for her singular culinary ability that resulted in deliciously prepared cakes, pies, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, a woman of devout faith, Ms. Joyner was a Sunday School organist and lead soprano at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church for more than twenty-five years, and she

was a devoted member of the mother ministry at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church before joining Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in 2000, the same year she married her second husband, Pastor James Joyner; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings, Ms. Joyner built a rich, full life that included fine clothing, a yellow Cadillac, and world travel; throughout all chapters of her life, she always possessed class and remained committed to her faith in Jesus; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Joyner was a woman of grace and elegance who enchanted all within her path; she waltzed with Governor Ned McWherter at his inauguration ball and attended a banquet held in her honor at the world-famous Peabody Hotel; and

WHEREAS, a fixture of the Bluff City community, she was honored with the key to the City of Memphis by Mayor Willie Herenton, and in 1997, she was named Outstanding Mother of the Year by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Joyner was also devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother who will be sadly mourned yet fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Joyner 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 the members of this General Assembly should 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dorothy Henderson Chism Joyner, 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 Ms. Joyner.

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.