

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1129

By Martin G

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Dr. C. Wayne Shearer for his honorable and astute service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. C. Wayne Shearer is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional whose dedication to his community and his nation is unwavering and longstanding through years of devoted service; and

WHEREAS, born in Chattanooga on August 13, 1924, Dr. Shearer is a member of a pioneer East Tennessee family; at a young age, he moved to Cordele, Georgia, where he graduated from Cordele High School in 1942 as president of his senior class; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wayne Shearer delivered the *Cordele Dispatch* newspaper by bicycle in his younger years, contributing stories on several occasions and sparking a lifelong joy of reading newspapers; and

WHEREAS, he briefly attended North Georgia College before volunteering for pilot training as an aviation cadet in the United States Army Air Force during World War II; and

WHEREAS, at nineteen years of age, Dr. Shearer graduated from single-engine advanced fighter pilot training at Eagle Pass, Texas, in the Class of 44G; due to a strong need for bomber pilots, he continued training on B-29 bombers until the war ended; and

WHEREAS, following the end of World War II, Dr. Shearer completed premedical courses at the University of Georgia and graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in

Memphis; he also earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis and a Master of Education degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wayne Shearer was a devoted member of the Air Force Reserve for thirty years, during which time he served the Air Force Academy as the Chattanooga area liaison officer and retired at the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, he retired from the East Tennessee Liaison Officers of the Air Force Academy at the rank of commander; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his military career, Dr. Shearer dedicated nearly fifty years of astute service to his community and patients as an optometrist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wayne Shearer was a highly respected member of his profession, having been active in various optometric organizations and as president of the Tennessee Optometric Association from 1974 to 1975; he was appointed twice by the governor to the Tennessee Board of Optometry and held several offices, including as president, in the Southeast Tennessee Optometric Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shearer worked alongside his faithful staff at an optometry office in Red Bank from 1955 until 1997, when he took his much-deserved retirement; he took immense pride in his work and enjoyed years of serving and helping his patients and their vision; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his community, Dr. Shearer was an active member of the Pachyderm Club, the Red Bank and Hixson Chambers of Commerce, the Hixson Kiwanis Club, and the Military Officers Association of America, where he held various officer positions; he also taught at North Chattanooga Junior High, presently known as Northside, from 1955 to 1957, while beginning his optometric practice; and

WHEREAS, he served the board of the Erlanger Hospital as a trustee from 1989 to 1997, and in his nineties, Dr. Shearer authored a book regarding his training experiences as a teenage World War II pilot; and

WHEREAS, a longtime chairman of the Republican Hixson precinct, Dr. Wayne Shearer also ran several close races as the Republican nominee for the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, aside from his professional accomplishments, Dr. Shearer is most grateful for the love and support of his daughter, Cathy Morris; his son, John Shearer; his three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren; he enjoyed sixty-four years of marriage to his beloved wife, Velma Jordan, before her passing in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shearer is committed to his faith, and he attended Hixson United Methodist Church for many years; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Dr. Wayne Shearer who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shearer is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor Dr. C. Wayne Shearer for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and the City of Chattanooga and extend to him our best wishes for continued success.

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.