

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1137

By Gillespie

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Stokes of
Memphis.

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

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

WHEREAS, a prominent member of the Memphis business community, John Stokes served as vice chairman of Morgan Keegan for several decades before taking his well-deserved retirement in 2012, when the firm was purchased by Raymond James; and

WHEREAS, wholly dedicated to his community, Mr. Stokes excelled as the first chairman of Riverfront Development Corporation, pouring his heart and his own money into making an important stretch of Memphis real estate an economic life force; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in moving the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law to downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, John Stokes estimably served on the Memphis Shelby County Airport Authority and helped establish a dedicated giving stream for ARTSmemphis that has since raised millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes was a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he met his future wife, Anne; the couple married in 1959 and moved to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, after working for a period of time for Merrill Lynch, John Stokes was recruited by the newly formed Morgan Keegan firm to run its equity capital markets, in which capacity he began his venerable tenure with the firm; and

WHEREAS, among his many interests, Mr. Stokes was a consummate duck hunter and conservationist who loved the Memphis Tigers, for which he held season tickets for many years; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, John Stokes always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of sixty-five years, Anne Stokes; daughters, Elizabeth Stokes Bran and Mim Stokes Brown; son, John "Jack" Stokes III; twelve grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stokes 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Stokes, 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. Stokes.

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.