

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1166

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Hamilton McCulley
"Buster" Davis of Harrison.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Hamilton McCulley "Buster" Davis, a gentleman who was a friend and mentor to many; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ooltewah, Mr. Davis was descended from a Pioneer family who emigrated from Wales to the American colonies before 1710; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton McCulley Davis was born on April 4, 1937, in the historic James Brown House, which had been a stop on the Trail of Tears; his family sold this farm in the early 1940s and relocated to the nearby current homeplace in Harrison; and

WHEREAS, his grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Davis, served as a judge in the historic and now-defunct James County, which is presently part of Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton McCulley Davis's great-great-great-grandfather, Thomas Arnold Davis, served as a sergeant in the Revolutionary War; in appreciation of his military service, he received a land grant from North Carolina of 200 acres on "Camp Creek, south side of Nolachucky" in what is now Greene County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born in 1740 in Virginia, Thomas Arnold Davis died on his farm in 1825, leaving his estate to his children, one of whom was James Harrison Davis; and

WHEREAS, James Harrison Davis also served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the Wilkes County, North Carolina Militia; married in Greene County in 1786, he moved to several locales in Tennessee before settling in Ooltewah to farm the land; and

WHEREAS, another of Thomas Arnold Davis's children, Patience, married John Kennedy; he was the son of Colonel Daniel Kennedy, a Revolutionary War soldier who is often referred to by historians as the Father of Greene County; and

WHEREAS, Patience and John Kennedy, Col. Daniel Kennedy, and many other family members are buried in the Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery near Camp Creek; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Dyke, the son-in-law of Thomas Arnold Davis and co-executor of his will, served in the War of 1812 as a captain under Colonel William Lillard's 2nd Regiment, East Tennessee Volunteer Militia; and

WHEREAS, moving forward to the twentieth century, Hamilton McCulley Davis founded Davis Construction in 1961 and built hundreds of homes in the Chattanooga area over the years; he also served as a mentor to several local homebuilders who began their careers at his side; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis gave back to his community as a member of Harrison Masonic Lodge #114 for more than fifty years and through his work with the Alhambra Shriners Hospital Bus Unit; he was also a Scottish Rite Freemason and a Shriner; and

WHEREAS, for more than eighty years, he expressed his faith as a devoted member of Maple Grove Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was preceded in death by his father, Ben Davis; mother, Cydna Davis; daughters, Sharon and Cynthia Davis; brothers, Burnice, Sam, and Don Davis; and sisters, Patricia Davis and Sara Pearson; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of more than sixty-five years, Geneva Loretta Young Davis; sister, Geraldine Tanner; daughters, Kendra (Alan) Cameron and Connie Alissandrello; grandchildren, Kellie Cameron, Justin (Ashley) Cameron, Dylan Alissandrello, and Krista Cameron; great-granddaughter, Elliott Jane Cameron; and several nephews, nieces, cousins, and lifelong friends; and

WHEREAS, Buster Davis was a man who evidenced purpose and commitment in all his endeavors and a devout faith in family, history, and God, and we should pay tribute to his bountiful life on this sad occasion; 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 Hamilton McCulley "Buster" Davis of the Davis Pioneer family, reflecting fondly upon his exemplary career in home construction and his many contributions to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. Davis.

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.