

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1323

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Thomas Lupton of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of John Thomas “Jack” Lupton; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lupton 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, the former owner of JTL Corporation, which was the world’s largest soft drink bottling company in the 1970s and 1980s, Mr. Lupton will be remembered for his lasting positive impact upon the City of Chattanooga and his many philanthropic contributions, many of which were made through the Lyndhurst Foundation, which was founded by his father; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Jack Lupton was born to Cartter and Margaret Rawlings Lupton in 1927. He attended Baylor School, where he served as the captain of the swim team and lettered in varsity football, basketball, and baseball; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation in 1944, Mr. Lupton joined the United States Navy, whereupon he was assigned to PT boats. A valorous and honorable member of this country’s “Greatest Generation,” Jack Lupton served a year in the South Pacific before the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, following his return stateside, Jack Lupton attended the University of North Carolina, where he majored in business administration; and

WHEREAS, before returning to JTL in 1954, Jack Lupton worked in the bottling business, working as a bottle washer in Macon, Georgia, and the textile business, serving as an employee of Dixie Yarns; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton became the president of the world's largest Coca-Cola bottling company when his father died in 1977. Jack Lupton sold the JTL bottling empire to the Coca-Cola Company in 1986 for \$1.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lupton, who also founded the Miller-Reid Advertising Agency, will perhaps be remembered less for his business acumen than for his generous philanthropic spirit. He gave the City of Chattanooga \$20 million in 1985, money which was to be used for the development of the city's riverfront; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his generosity, Chattanooga built the world's largest freshwater aquarium, which has spurred numerous other developments in the area, and through his own gifts and those of the Lyndhurst Foundation Jack Lupton was the driving force behind the Honors Course, the Tennessee Riverwalk, and scores of education, arts, and community projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lupton, who served with unwavering distinction as the chairman of the Lyndhurst Foundation until 1981, also made what was, at the time, the largest cash contribution to any public institution of higher education in Tennessee when he donated \$25 million to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2001. That incredible donation enabled the university to build new dormitories and found three doctoral programs and the SimCenter National Center for Computational Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lupton was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Alice Probasco Lupton, to whom he was joined in matrimony on March 20, 1948, and he was the proud father and father-in-law of Thomas Cartter Lupton, Alice and Alfred Smith, Katherine and Lucien Burns Crosland, and Margaret and Charles Cole Gerber; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lupton 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 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 SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jack Lupton, 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. Lupton.

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