

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1387

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Grady Pascal Williams of Signal Mountain.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Grady Pascal Williams; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed Chattanooga civic leader and philanthropist, Mr. Williams was a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Grady Williams was born in the Sequatchie Valley and grew up on a farm; after graduating from Bledsoe County High School in 1953, he attended Tennessee Technological University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and graduated with honors; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Mr. Williams began his professional career as a staff accountant at the accounting firm of Hazlett, Lewis & Bieter, PLLC (HLB) in Chattanooga; while working for HLB, he took a two-year leave of absence for military service as a U.S. Army Paratrooper Infantry Officer; and

WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged as a captain, he returned to HLB, where he became a partner in 1968 and was named managing partner in 1977; Grady Williams's tenure at HLB spanned forty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, later in his career, Mr. Williams joined the firm of Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain, PC, and became an organizer of CapitalMark Bank & Trust and a member of its board of directors; and

WHEREAS, led by a passion to help others, make a difference in people's lives, and leave this world a better place, Grady Williams established numerous scholarships and was instrumental in helping new business startups; he was also very successful in leading the fundraising efforts of many community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams's philanthropic efforts left an indelible mark on his community, and he served on numerous boards of directors, including Allied Arts, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, the Chattanooga Little Theatre, the Community Research Council, the Fortwood Center, the Manker Patten Tennis Club, the Mountain City Club, the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, and the United Way, and as president of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the Chattanooga State Foundation Board, the University of Chattanooga Foundation Board, the Executive Advisory Board for the School of Business at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the Advisory Board for the School of Business at Tennessee Technological University, where he established a scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Grady Williams served as president of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and on the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy; he was also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; and

WHEREAS, his generous advocacy garnered him a number of honors, including recognition as Fundraiser of the Year and Leadership Fundraiser of the Year from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Chattanooga Manager of the Year, as well as his receipt of the 2014 Outstanding Alumnus Award from Tennessee Technological University's School of Business, the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy, and the Kiwanis Club of Chattanooga Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was an active and devout member of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and elder; and

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

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Phyllis Williams; his brother, Franklin Williams; his sons, Grady (Kim) Williams and David (Michele)

Williams; his grandchildren, Luke Hill, Justin Hill, Will Williams, Katie (Mitchell) Gentry, and Megan Williams; and his great-granddaughter, Emmie Hill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Mayme Williams; his sisters, Marie Williams Bickford and Velma Williams Holland; and his brothers, Cecil Williams and Thomas Williams; and

WHEREAS, Grady Williams leaves behind an enduring 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 we 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 Grady Pascal Williams, 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. Williams.

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.