

HOUSE RESOLUTION 16

By Richey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and recognize the accomplishments of the late Charles V. Wilhoit, Jr., on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor the memory of a member of America's greatest generation, a Tennessee Volunteer of the highest order whose untold sacrifices for this country have afforded us the freedom we hold so dear; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person was Charles V. Wilhoit, Jr., 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, Charles Wilhoit was born in Alcoa on February 7, 1923, to Grace and Charles Wilhoit, Sr., and attended schools in Blount County as a child; and

WHEREAS, he attended Maryville High School and completed his education at Columbia Military Academy in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhoit entered the United States Naval Academy in June 1942 and was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy upon his graduation in June 1945; and

WHEREAS, a highly decorated veteran of the United States Navy, Charles Wilhoit enjoyed an exemplary naval career that included service in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional record of service to his nation is evinced by his receipt of four Bronze Stars and numerous additional ribbons and citations; and

WHEREAS, having served his nation with the utmost integrity and valor for many years, Mr. Wilhoit took his well-deserved retirement in 1974 as Commander, Reserve Squadron 27; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Charles Wilhoit and his wife, Patricia, left San Diego, California, where Mr. Wilhoit had been very involved in the Republican Party, and moved to a house on a 108-acre property they had purchased in Townsend; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhoit set about transforming the property with hiking trails, a garden planted with 108 blueberry bushes for his wife to enjoy, and an inviting camping area, where family reunions continue to be held every Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Charles Wilhoit remained active in politics and ran for the office of Governor of Tennessee in 2002 as a Libertarian; and

WHEREAS, Charles V. Wilhoit, Jr., passed away on May 15, 2016, leaving behind to cherish his memory his daughter, Ann (Bob) Rickabaugh; son, Charlie; stepsons, Danny, Peter (Mary Grace), and Marcus (Virginia) Kaufman; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Dorothy; his wife, Tricia; his daughter, Barbi; and his sisters, Alice (Charles) Morton and Helen (Jim) Moroney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilhoit 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 most appropriate that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, distinguished veteran, 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, that we honor the memory of Charles V. Wilhoit, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his contributions to the people of Tennessee on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

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