

HOUSE RESOLUTION 22

By Richey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joy Mahana Bishop of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Joy Mahana Bishop of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Joy Bishop was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Texas, Joy Bishop enjoyed a thirty-year career with the United States Air Force, where she was the first woman to receive an appointment to the Senior Executive Service, the highest level of civil service; and

WHEREAS, after she retired to Maryville in 1990, Ms. Bishop dedicated three decades of service to the good people and communities of Blount County, where she served with acumen and alacrity in several positions throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed community leader, Ms. Bishop rallied support for the Leg-Up child care assistance program, a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Pellissippi State Community College, and state-licensed child care centers in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, she was a devout member of the Chilhowee Club, the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way; she also served as the honorary co-chair of the first Tennessee Economic Summit for Women, and in previous years, she served the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bishop was a member of the 1998 Leadership Blount class, where she helped mobilize what would become the Clayton Center for the Arts on the campus of Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, she was an active part of Maryville Kiwanis, of which she was a member from July 1994 to November 2019; in 2002, she served as president of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bishop served on several committees and aided various fundraising efforts; she was a member of the Pellissippi State Foundation Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2020 and provided leadership on two major gift campaigns, which resulted in the establishment of the Blount County campus of Pellissippi State Community College and the Ruth and Steve West Workforce Development Center; and

WHEREAS, appointed by the former mayor of Maryville, Ms. Bishop organized and led a fundraising project and campaign to build a new library; with the help of others, Ms. Bishop successfully raised \$14 million; the library opened in 2002, and it remains the largest and most heavily used non-metro library in the State; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Bishop received the 2007 Community Leadership Award and the 2018 Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy, and in 2013, she was the first recipient of the Athena Leadership Award; in 2015, she was inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bishop was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her two beloved sons, Greg and Glenn; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bishop will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by her four cherished grandchildren and two dear nieces; and

WHEREAS, widely known for her counsel and kindness, Ms. Bishop leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and gracious 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 Joy Mahana Bishop, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Ms. Bishop.

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