

HOUSE RESOLUTION 88

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to request that a memorial plaque be affixed in the House Chamber to the desk of the late Representative Barbara Cooper.

WHEREAS, our dear colleague the late Representative Barbara Cooper epitomized the ideal of the devoted and effective public servant; she took her obligations as an elected official as a sacred trust, and she performed each of them with the utmost integrity, probity, and industry; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Cooper's dedication to her legislative district, her fellow citizens, her community, and her State was absolute and unwavering; she achieved a great deal in both her public and personal life, touching the lives of countless Tennesseans during her tenure in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a trailblazer in education and a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic life of Shelby County, Representative Cooper distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 86<sup>th</sup> House District, whom she served as a member of the 100<sup>th</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup>, 103<sup>rd</sup>, 104<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, 106<sup>th</sup>, 107<sup>th</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup>, 109<sup>th</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup>, 111<sup>th</sup>, and 112<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Ward Cooper was born on August 4, 1929, in Memphis and departed from this world on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at the age of ninety-three; and

WHEREAS, she was a professional educator, who retired from the Memphis City Schools System and remained a lifelong student; her commitment to education and civic duty began with her responsibilities as a Community Relations Specialist for the federal Title I initiative; and

WHEREAS, first elected to represent House District 86 in 1996, she was saluted by her colleagues as the oldest active State legislator in Tennessee's history; Representative Cooper served eleven terms and was seeking reelection on the November 8, 2022, General Election ballot; and

WHEREAS, throughout her outstanding career as a public servant, Representative Barbara Cooper worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the desk from which she served her constituents and the State of Tennessee so long and so well should bear a plaque of remembrance for our late colleague; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that in recognition of Representative Cooper's life of public service, we hereby request that an appropriate plaque be affixed in the House Chamber to the desk of the late Representative Barbara Cooper.