

HOUSE RESOLUTION 177

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge J. O. Bond of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge J. O. Bond; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bond 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 Honorable J. O. Bond served with acumen and alacrity for over eighteen years as the Criminal Court Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial District, in which position he established a reputation among all those who appeared in his courtroom and throughout the Fifteenth Judicial District as a firm but fair arbiter; and

WHEREAS, of all his accomplishments on the bench, Judge Bond was perhaps proudest of his implementation of the drug court, a judicial innovation that allows first-time, non-violent offenders to pay their debts to society through an alternative sentencing program designed to rehabilitate the offender and avoid recidivism and its attendant costs; and

WHEREAS, while Judge Bond always respected the gravity of his office, attending to his judicial duties with all due seriousness, he is remembered by many who knew him well for the sense of humor that made him so very joyful and companionable; and

WHEREAS, a Wilson County native, J. O. Bond was born as the youngest of eight children on December 24, 1938; and

WHEREAS, as a boy, he attended Major School, a two-room schoolhouse, and went on to graduate from Lebanon High School; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bond served his country admirably as a member of the United States Air Force, enlisting as soon as he graduated from high school, and his duty stations included bases in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Okinawa, Japan; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the military, J. O. Bond enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), earning a degree in business administration and economics; and

WHEREAS, while a student at MTSU, he met Jo Ann Hughes and the two were married while he was still a university student; and

WHEREAS, he took a position as a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance Company, but eventually enrolled in the YMCA Nashville School of Law, working to support his family during the day and, in his evenings, working toward a career in law; and

WHEREAS, after passing the bar exam in 1971, Judge Bond began practicing with the firm that later became known as Agee, Bond, and Hunt; and

WHEREAS, after nearly two decades in private law practice, Judge Bond was elected as the Criminal Court Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial District, in which capacity he remained for the rest of his life; and

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

WHEREAS, J. O. Bond enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-four years, Jo Ann, and was the proud father of three sons, James O. Jr., Joshua, and Joseph; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, he will be sorely missed by his four grandchildren, Jackson, Lauren, Sammy, and Thatcher Bond; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bond was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Susie Ann Bond, his sisters, Minnie Bond Hopkins and Mildred Bond, and his brother, Floyd Bond; and

WHEREAS, Judge J. O. Bond 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, that we honor the memory of

the Honorable J. O. Bond, 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 Judge Bond.

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