

HOUSE RESOLUTION 177

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Virgil Julius Caldwell for meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Virgil Julius Caldwell, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a native of Brownsville, Virgil Caldwell is the son of the late Reverend James A. Caldwell and Mrs. Scottie V. Caldwell; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Merry High School, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in social science from Lane College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Caldwell served with valor and distinction as a member of the United States Armed Forces, serving in Korea for two years. Upon the conclusion of his military service he moved to Union City, where he became an educator in the Obion County School System; and

WHEREAS, Virgil Caldwell served as a social studies instructor, band and choir director and, in 1957, he received a Master of Arts degree from the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Caldwell accepted his call into the gospel ministry in 1960 and, in 1962, he became the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dresden, during which time he attended the A.B.T. Seminary in Martin; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, he was called to be the pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church of Brownsville, during which time he attended summer sessions at Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Virgil Caldwell was called to the New Monumental Baptist Church of Chattanooga and, upon receiving this call, he discontinued his employment as an educator to become a full-time pastor; and

WHEREAS, during his pastoral time at New Monumental, Dr. Caldwell continued his education at Vanderbilt Divinity School and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caldwell has traveled around the globe, visiting several countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and those travels have influenced the way he preaches and teaches; and

WHEREAS, he considers his most gratifying trip to be the two-week overseas trip he made to the Holy Land in 1975, and he is also grateful to have had an opportunity to preach in Liberia, Africa; and

WHEREAS, Virgil Caldwell has served as the moderator of the Chattanooga District Association and the president of the Tennessee B.M. & E. Convention, and he is a writer of Sunday school literature and has published several books; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caldwell currently participates in prison ministry, visits those who are ill, and teaches at the Covington Theological Seminary, from which he received an Honorary Doctorate in May 2010; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, he enjoys writing plays, attending movies, and playing the saxophone and piano; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Dr. Caldwell is deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shares with his college sweetheart and wife of fifty-six years, Ruby Whitmore; their four children, Cedric, Victor, Scottie, and Christy; and their nine grandchildren, Christian, Carlous, Julius, Ryan, Camille, Jaylon, Jade, Christopher, and Victoria; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga and the State of Tennessee are undoubtedly better places to live because of the life and service of Virgil Caldwell; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. Caldwell who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Virgil Caldwell for his many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to others, and his astute leadership in Chattanooga; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Virgil Julius Caldwell for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, commend his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

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