

HOUSE RESOLUTION 221

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harbert Alexander, Sr.,
of Jackson.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Harbert Alexander, Sr., a gifted banker, historian, author, amateur archaeologist, farmer, storyteller, and public servant who gave back to his community in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, on the professional level, Mr. Alexander was associated with Jackson National Bank (now Bancorp South) for twenty-four years, serving as President of the bank and Vice Chairman of the holding company; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Union Planters Bank (now Regions Bank) and later served as Regional President of its banks in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Middle and West Tennessee; after his retirement in 2004, Mr. Alexander became affiliated with the Bank of Jackson, serving as Chairman of the Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander began his civic involvement early in life; as a newlywed, he served as the President of the Greater Pinson Mounds Development Association; for many years, he was the Madison County Historian and published five books on its history; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong community participation included service as Chairman of the Board of Jackson Madison County General Hospital, President of the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the Jackson Energy Authority, President of the Board of Trustees at Lambuth University, and President of the Jackson Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of many interests and talents, Mr. Alexander served as a member of the Tennessee State Archeology Board, Chairman of the Episcopal Day School, President of the Jackson Country Club, and a longtime member of the Quarterback Club and

the Forked Deer River Coon Club; he also helped found Leadership Jackson in 1979 by serving as program chair; and

WHEREAS, he was a true blessing for Area Relief Ministries, which he served as Chairman of the fundraising committee and spokesperson for Room in the Inn; and

WHEREAS, Harbert Alexander was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the Douglas Henry State Museum Commission for the Tennessee State Museum and served as Chairman of its Audit Committee for a term; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Mr. Alexander served on the Jackson Madison County Bicentennial Historical Advisory Committee and was very involved in the Legacy Projects for the Bicentennial; he wrote the Bicentennial's Historical Overview for website content and the Introduction to the soon-to-be-released book *Jackson Madison County Milestones: Celebrating 200 Years of Achievement In Our Community*; and

WHEREAS, he also wrote a book of hunting stories illustrated by Ralph McDonald and a soon-to-be-released work of fiction, *Turnaround*; and

WHEREAS, Harbert Alexander was a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honor given to a Rotarian, and was selected as The Exchange Club's "Man of the Year" in 1991; the Harbert Alexander Servant Leadership Award was established in his honor and is still awarded annually; and

WHEREAS, born into the Presbyterian faith, Mr. Alexander was a devoted lifetime member of First Presbyterian Church, where his servant heart truly felt at home; he answered the call for assistance wherever and however needed, including service as an Elder and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson and the son of the late Lucille Rice Alexander and Ridley Harris Alexander, he was a graduate of Jackson High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Military Institute and a graduate degree from Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, from 1962 to 1964, Mr. Alexander served as an artillery officer in Schweinfurt, West Germany, before retiring from the U.S. Army with the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his active civic life, Harbert Alexander was passionate about his hobbies, which included amateur archaeology, Civil War history, farm management, the great outdoors, bird hunting, and storytelling, all of which he enjoyed sharing with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-six years, Nora Noe Alexander, who loves Tennessee Walking Horses and has competed in horse shows throughout the Southeast, including the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration; he strongly supported Mrs. Alexander in her pursuit of these passions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander's strong family legacy includes three children who also survive him, Lucille Alexander "Ceil" Cowles (Ty), Harbert Lee Rice Alexander, Jr., (Tausha), and Albert Noe Alexander; and six grandchildren, Morgan Ridley Cowles (fiancée, Jessie Mills), Mary Alexander Corrine Cowles (fiancé, Tye Rochner), Nora Ann Ridley Alexander, Mary Harbert Rice Alexander, Dorothy Lucille Cline Alexander, and Elizabeth James Happel Alexander; and

WHEREAS, this titan of the Jackson community was interred in his family's plot at Hollywood Cemetery in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we should remember this exceptional human being whose commitment to the greater good never wavered; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Harbert Alexander, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his life of purpose and his many contributions to the Jackson community and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Alexander.

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