

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Willard Lacy Upchurch of Homestead.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Willard Lacy Upchurch; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Upchurch 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 son of Ridley and Lillian Neal Upchurch, Willard Lacy Upchurch was born on April 11, 1946, in Jamestown; growing up in a rural, agricultural community fostered his passion for agriculture from an early age, as did his participation in 4-H Club and FFA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Upchurch received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Agriculture with concentrations in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee (UT); graduating in 1967, he thereafter embarked upon a career with the UT Agricultural Extension Service in Madison County; and

WHEREAS, Lacy Upchurch eventually transferred closer to home, serving with acumen and alacrity as a 4-H agent, adult agricultural agent, and county director in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, he left the UT Extension Service to farm in partnership with Ed Lanquist, raising both hogs and cattle; during this time, he was actively involved in state organizations such as the Tennessee Livestock Producers, Tennessee Pork Producers, and Tennessee Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Upchurch's many years of involvement with and contributions to Tennessee Farm Bureau led to his being elected as the organization's seventh president in

2005; he and his wife moved to Columbia, where he led the nation's largest Farm Bureau organization, thus shaping agriculture in Tennessee and across the country. He retired from the Tennessee Farm Bureau in 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Upchurch is survived by his wife, Kay Upchurch; son, Gregg (Lena) Upchurch; daughters, Melissa (Steve) Upchurch Edwards and Christie (Scott VanWinkle) Upchurch; grandchildren, Kayla Ann Davis, Sarah Edwards (Cole) Condra, Emily Upchurch, Taylor (Cody Morris) Edwards, John Edwards, Bailey (Colt) Lewis, and Paul Martin Thompson; great-grandson, William Scott Lewis; brother, Jack Upchurch; and sisters, Jonelda Cole, Helen Pierce, and Betty Vernon; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, James Upchurch; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout faith, Willard Lacy Upchurch was an active member of Homestead Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, he remained true to his agricultural roots until the time of his passing, growing a large vegetable garden, tending to his orchard and vineyard, and raising beef cattle with his son; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Upchurch 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 we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Willard Lacy Upchurch as we reflect fondly on his staunch commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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

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