

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Euell "Dean" Bush of Evansville, Indiana.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Euell "Dean" Bush; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Waverly, Dean Bush 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 Stephen Bush and Cora Lee Holt Bush, Dean Bush was born in Bradyville on December 18, 1929; he graduated from Woodbury High School before attending Draughon's Business College in Nashville and the Elkins Institute in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received his First Class FCC Engineering License. He also honorably served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bush was a businessman, entrepreneur, innovator, broadcaster, and engineer who brought radio to Humphreys County in 1963 when, as the engineer of record, he oversaw the design and construction of the area's first radio station, WPHC-AM, and became the station's first manager; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Dean Bush brought FM radio to the county when he oversaw the design and construction of WVMY-FM as the engineer of record, and he was subsequently appointed manager of both stations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bush's outstanding ability as a manager and broadcaster were evident on February 24, 1978, as he led the stations' response to an explosion in the community that killed all of the City of Waverly's senior management personnel and crippled the fire response capability; he and his staff immediately suspended all regular programming on both stations and focused on broadcasting emergency information; and

WHEREAS, the stations stayed on the air for twenty-four hours and kept the community informed as events unfolded, and their remote equipment was turned over to the city and county government to broadcast emergency information. For many hours, residents called into the station with their present location, as many had been stranded when all major roads were shut down, and Mr. Bush and other announcers kept listeners informed of the status of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, for their heroic efforts, Dean Bush and his staff were recognized by the Tennessee governor, the Tennessee General Assembly, and the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bush left the radio industry in 1979 to establish the first cable television company in Humphreys County and served as the company's owner, manager, and engineer for many years until his retirement from broadcasting in the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, at the turn of the century, Dean Bush served as the host of a weekly free summer concert series that was broadcast on WQMV for six years; he formally retired in 2007 and left his beloved Waverly to live closer to his children; and

WHEREAS, for sixty-five years, Dean Bush was a faithful member of Waverly Church of Christ and served as a deacon for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, Dean Bush was the proud father of Deana (Ed) Claiborne Dodds, Douglas (Alice) Bush, and Alan (Randa) Bush; the devoted grandfather of Stephen (Kelly) Bush, Meredith (Cameron) Ezell, William (Anna) Bush, Kalyn (Aaron) Stratton, and Michael Bush; and the treasured great-grandfather of Cora Louise Bush and Aveline Marie Bush; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Bush was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Jean Merideth Bush, and his siblings, William Bush, Nell Jernigan, and Thomas Bush; and

WHEREAS, Dean Bush 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 the members of 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Euell "Dean" Bush, 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 Mr. Bush.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.