

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Galen Walter Johnson, Jr.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Galen Walter Johnson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Galen Johnson 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, Mr. Johnson was born in Avery County, North Carolina, on October 7, 1928, to Galen and Hazel Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Galen Johnson was a 1946 graduate of Everett High School; he earned his bachelor's degree from Maryville College and his master's degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher and coach in Richards, Missouri, and Porter High School in Maryville, where the gymnasium is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Galen Johnson served as a longtime principal at Porter High School and later at William Blount High School, and, upon his retirement, he served as an assistant girls' basketball coach at Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson spent a total of 48 years coaching basketball; he set a national record of coaching 18 teams in state tournament appearances over 21 years, and, among his many achievements, he was a seven-time district coach of the year and he was named to the TSSAA Sports Hall of Fame, the Blount County Sports Hall of Fame, and *The Daily Times* Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he served for nine years on the TSSAA Legislative Council; and

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

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Lila Myers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson is survived by his loving wife of sixty-one years, Betty Pierce Johnson; daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and Mike Brewington, Stephanie and Jerry Thompson, Gaye and Mark Hasty, and Dawn and Tony Reagan; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Lance, Laura, and Brantley Grooms; Nick, Heather, Dawson, and Taylor Grooms; Mark, Jr., Tabitha, Bailey, and Payton Hasty; Marissa, Allen, and Troy Lambert; and Mindy Reagan; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Jack and Elaine Johnson and David and Janet Johnson; sisters and brothers-in-law, Doris Crowder, Sandy and David Coster, and Sylvia Webb; and many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Galen Johnson 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Galen Walter Johnson, Jr., 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. Johnson.

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