

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Milton Hamilton, Jr., of Union City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague, Milton Hamilton, Jr., who ably served as a member of both the House of Representatives and Senate during his long and distinguished career of public service; and

WHEREAS, from president of the student body at Union City High School to Majority Leader of the Senate, Milton Hamilton, Jr., worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, a life-long resident of Obion County, Mr. Hamilton was born in Community Pride on September 8, 1932, the son of the late Milton H. Hamilton, Sr., and Annie Novelle (Rogers) Hamilton; he graduated from Union City High School and attended Memphis State University before receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Murray State University; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, he entered the United States Army with the rank of Second Lieutenant and served as an instructor in the Guided Missile School at Fort Bliss, Texas; his military commitment extended to the Tennessee National Guard, where he held the rank of Colonel at the time of his retirement in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Milton Hamilton, Jr., learned the responsibilities of elected office early in life and served on the Union City Board of Education from 1960 to 1964; following in the footsteps of his father, Milton Hamilton, Sr., a member of the 81st -83rd General Assemblies, he then placed his name on the ballot for the Tennessee House of Representatives as a Democrat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton adroitly served the citizens of Obion, Lake, and Weakley Counties from 1965 to 1969 as a member of the 84th and 85th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, his constituency expanded to include much of the northern portion of West Tennessee when he was elected to represent Senate District 24, which he served from 1969 to 1996 as a member of the 86th to 99th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Milton Hamilton, Jr., held virtually every leadership post in the Senate, including Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, and Floor Leader, as well as serving as Chairman of the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Legislature, he was widely known and praised for his common sense approach to problem solving and for his fiscal expertise; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his prestigious leadership positions, Mr. Hamilton served as Chairman of the Senate Calendar Committee and brought his invaluable expertise to the following committees on which he also served: Education; Commerce and Labor; Rules; Energy and Natural Resources; Transportation; State and Local Government; General Welfare; and Health and Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, serving as a Republican, he helped hand that party its first majority in the Tennessee Senate since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton retired from elected public service in 1996 and was named Commissioner of Environment and Conservation by Governor Don Sundquist, a position he held until 2003; and

WHEREAS, his interest in both the history and the future of Reelfoot Lake made him an effective leader in conservation efforts related to the lake and the state park bearing its name; and

WHEREAS, wholly dedicated to his community, Milton Hamilton, Jr., was a valued member of the Union City Rotary Club, the Union City and Obion County Chamber of Commerce, the Loyal Order of the Moose, and American Legion-Post 20; he was also a 32nd Degree Mason, a Knight Templar, a Shriner, and a member of Al Chymia Temple-Memphis; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of Union City First United Methodist Church, which he faithfully served for many years as a steward; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton was preceded in death by his beloved wife, the former Mary Tisdale "Dale" White, and is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, David and Barbara

Hamilton and Milton Hugh Hamilton III and Sally Hamilton; his daughter, Ann Barrett Hamilton; five grandchildren, Ally (Hamilton) Wingo, Lauren Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton, Milton H. "Matt" Hamilton IV, and Blanton Hamilton; his sister, Alice Marene Reid; and several nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews; and

WHEREAS, Milton H. Hamilton, Jr., took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all, and his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton 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 remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our former colleague, Milton Hamilton, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend 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. Hamilton.

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