

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 66

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James M. "Jim"
Leitnaker of Kingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James M. "Jim" Leitnaker, a devoted supporter of public education, a renowned scientist, and a decorated veteran of both World War II and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, a native of Indiana, Mr. Leitnaker grew up in Baldwin, Kansas, before eventually settling in Kingston to pursue his career; and

WHEREAS, he entered the U.S. military during World War II at the age of eighteen and was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, while serving overseas, Jim Leitnaker met and married his sweetheart, Jean, who hailed from England; their happy union spanned sixty-seven years and produced six children; and

WHEREAS, he also proudly served his country in the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leitnaker earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Kansas and taught chemistry at Baker University before settling his family in East Tennessee in 1965; he enjoyed a long and distinguished career at both K-25 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he held numerous patents; and

WHEREAS, after taking a much-deserved retirement, Jim Leitnaker enjoyed life on his property in Kingston, where he gardened, raised dogs, and embraced the life of a gentleman farmer; he loved to sing and was known to belt out hymns as he tilled his garden; and

WHEREAS, he possessed the true heart of a servant and during his retirement was a stalwart supporter of public education; he tutored and mentored many students, served two terms on the Roane County Board of Education, and was the founder and president of The Children's Reading Foundation of the Tennessee Valley; and

WHEREAS, a tireless proponent for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Mr. Leitnaker always had enrollment forms for the organization in his possession and enrolled countless children over the years; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Jim Leitnaker was an active member of Kingston United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School; he adopted Micah 6:8 as his guiding scripture and embraced the philosophy of this verse in his daily life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leitnaker was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; son James M. Leitnaker Jr.; daughter Ruthie Paddock, and sister, Claire Tamblyn; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable gentleman is survived by his sons Pete (Sharon) Leitnaker and John (Anne) Leitnaker; daughters Mary Leitnaker and Sara Shaver; a multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother, Frank (Chris) Leitnaker; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leitnaker 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 this exceptional public servant who was a good and faithful servant of God and humanity; 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 James M. "Jim" Leitnaker, reflecting fondly upon his numerous contributions to his profession, his country, his community, and this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Leitnaker.

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.

