

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 129

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Christopher Steinhice of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of David Christopher Steinhice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steinhice 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, Chris Steinhice was born in Chattanooga on April 2, 1955, the first of four children born to Bill and Laurel Steinhice; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Red Bank High School in 1973 and, during his high school career, he was a National Merit Scholar, active in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and the Order of DeMolay, and he sang in his church's choir; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steinhice's high character and academic achievements earned him a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point, but he was medically disqualified from the appointment; and

WHEREAS, Chris Steinhice worked summer factory jobs while he was in high school, and, upon his high school graduation, he attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK) to study nuclear engineering, paying his own way through three years of college with the money he had saved; and

WHEREAS, during his time at UTK, Mr. Steinhice became confined to a wheelchair due to a worsening arthritic hip, a condition from which he had suffered since early childhood and, eventually, he left college to return home to take care of his father, who had fallen ill; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, after his father's passing, it was determined that Chris Steinhice needed a hip replacement and, at the age of twenty-two, he was then the youngest person to ever receive an artificial hip; and

WHEREAS, later that year, Mr. Steinhice moved to Nashville with his mother to be closer to the rest of his family; and

WHEREAS, in February 1987, Chris Steinhice began his illustrious career with the State of Tennessee, serving with acumen and alacrity as a Drafter Cartographer with the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Design Division; and

WHEREAS, one year later, he was promoted to Drafter 2 before being promoted to the classification of Drafting Technician; and

WHEREAS, in December 1995, Mr. Steinhice was promoted to Transportation Technician 2 and, one year later, he was promoted to Transportation Technician 3 before transferring to the Estimating and Bid Office in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, his most recent promotion was in December 2010, when he was promoted to Transportation Associate-Operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steinhice served the State for twenty-three outstanding years, climbing the ranks at the Department of Transportation and earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, his work associates remember him fondly as an extremely dedicated and organized employee who was always willing to put others before himself and never failed to lend a helping hand to all who needed it; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Steinhice became a Master Mason and a Shriner, and he was a longtime member of Middle Tennessee Mensa, which he served as a key player for their team in American Mensa's annual Culture Quest competition, winning four national titles; and

WHEREAS, in his free time, Chris Steinhice and his three siblings formed a quartet and performed an "Amazing Grace" routine that became a popular staple at the Mensa annual gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steinhice also enjoyed his travels, which included a cross-Canadian train ride, cruises to Alaska and Iceland, and multiple trips to Florida to watch the space shuttle launches; and

WHEREAS, Chris Steinhice 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 SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David Christopher Steinhice, 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. Steinhice.

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