

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 139

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Mack Wayne Craig of Nashville, former Dean and Vice President of Lipscomb University.

WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our State learned of the passing of Dr. Mack Wayne Craig of Nashville, a gentleman of the highest honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a well-known preacher, story teller, historian, and visionary leader in higher education who was devoted to his institution, Dr. Mack Wayne Craig served with acumen and industry as the academic dean and vice president of Lipscomb University, where he was employed from 1957 until his retirement in 1985; and

WHEREAS, born in Obion County, Mack Wayne Craig was raised in Jacksonville, Florida, and moved to Nashville in 1943 to attend David Lipscomb College, from which he obtained his associates degree in 1944; and

WHEREAS, in continuing his education, Dr. Craig enrolled at Vanderbilt University, from which he received his bachelor's degree in 1946 before obtaining his master's degree in 1948. He later earned his doctorate in 1958 from Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, showing great promise as an instructor at a young age, he began teaching a senior Bible class at David Lipscomb High School while attending Vanderbilt and would later teach Bible and Latin classes full-time at the school after completing his undergraduate degree; and

WHEREAS, named as the principal of David Lipscomb High School in 1949, Dr. Craig would serve in that capacity until 1957, when he was appointed as the Academic Dean of David Lipscomb College, now Lipscomb University; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed " the lean dean," Dr. Craig began the tradition of Tuesday night outdoor devotionals on the steps of Collins Alumni Auditorium, just one of many positive changes he effected during his twenty-one year tenure as an academic dean; and

WHEREAS, appointed to the position of Vice President for Institutional Planning at Lipscomb in 1978, Dr. Mack Craig would hold that esteemed post until 1983; he also served on Lipscomb's Executive Council and, in 1979, was named as the Director of the National Development Board before retiring from the university in 1985; and

WHEREAS, called to serve at an early age, Mack Wayne Craig began preaching while he was still a high school student in Florida at the St. Augustine Church of Christ. He would go on to serve as the minister for a number of Nashville-area Churches of Christ, including ministering to the Reid Avenue, Whites Creek, Charlotte Avenue, Vultee, and Hillsboro locations, as well as the Church of Christ in Allensville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, leading Gospel meetings across Middle Tennessee for decades, he led the singing at the 1962 Collins-Craig meeting, which was attended by 90,000 people and was the first event held in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. He also shared his powerful sermon, "*There They Crucified Him*," every Easter with his congregations; and

WHEREAS, an active member of Crieve Hall Church of Christ in his later years, Dr. Craig became a chaplain for the National Health Care Corporation following his retirement from Lipscomb. He enjoyed twenty-five years of serving the residents and staff of area nursing homes, in addition to becoming a much-loved trainer and speaker throughout the national organization; and

WHEREAS, a noted historian, Dr. Mack Wayne Craig shared his extensive knowledge of Nashville and the history of the War Between the States with many groups and was active in numerous organizations dedicated to Nashville and Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, a lover of old houses, antiques, and historic travel, Dr. Craig led tour groups to many historic locations in the United States, the Far East, Europe, and the Middle East during his lifetime and restored two historic homes, the Pinewood Mansion in Hickman County in 1968 and the Pepper Place in Allensville, Kentucky, in 1983, with both locations open for tours, available for special events, and equipped with antique shops; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Anne Discher Craig, and a grandson, James Discher Craig, Dr. Craig is survived by his three children and their spouses, Larry and Mary Lou Craig, David and Sally Craig, and Marnie Craig and David Ferree, along with five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Jan Craig; his sister-in-law, Mary Margaret Morrison, and her husband, Phillip Morrison; and a host of nieces and nephews and many dear friends, old colleagues, and former students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mack Wayne Craig 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 remarkable life of this exceptional educator, 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 Dr. Mack Wayne Craig, reflecting fondly upon his bountiful life of academic excellence, 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 Dr. Craig.

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