

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Michael "Mike" Lee White of Somerville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Michael "Mike" Lee White of Somerville; and

WHEREAS, a Memphis native, Mr. White graduated from Bartlett High School and continued his education at the William R. Moore School of Technology before pursuing a career in construction; and

WHEREAS, after many successful years in the construction industry, which included the fastest completion of a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise, the installation of the tower bells at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, and the founding of his own company, Marite Construction, Mike White accepted a position with Comcast Communications, where he inspired his peers and superiors alike with his strong work ethic and unwavering optimism; and

WHEREAS, upon relocating to Somerville thirteen years ago, Mr. White dedicated himself to his community, serving two terms as Alderman for his district, member of the Planning Commission and the City Task Force, Alderman Chairman of the historic Somerville City Cemetery, and founder of his neighborhood watch program and the Somerville Antique Car Club; and

WHEREAS, Mike White was best known throughout Somerville, however, as "Santa Claus," the true embodiment of the Christmas spirit and a registered Real Bearded Santa Claus since 2007; and

WHEREAS, no matter the season, he spread the gift of Christmas joy wherever he went, driving around in his "Santa Claus" antique Ford automobile decked out in red and green, opening his home to the community each year for the annual Somerville Christmas Tour of Homes, and, for many years, coordinating the "Santa Presents" Christmas Show benefiting the Fair Theater Restoration Project; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Mr. White was also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated son, he was preceded in death by his kind and loving mother, Judy Thomas White; and

WHEREAS, his memory will be forever cherished by his devoted wife, Salen Holland White; his daughter, Kristi Whiting and her husband, Josh; his three sons, Jason White and his wife, Jennifer, Andy White and his wife, Megan, and Jason Mayse and his wife, Melissa; his father, M.C. White; his sister, Marsha Brown; his three brothers, Steve White and his wife, Leigh, Tommy White and his wife, Jan, and Kevin White and his wife, Mary; and his nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mike White 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; 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 Michael "Mike" Lee White 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. White.

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