

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 151

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sarah Elizabeth  
McKelley King.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Sarah Elizabeth McKelley King; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Sarah King was born in Murfreesboro on November 7, 1921, to James Dudley McKelley and Lutie Jameson Osborn, and she was a seventh-generation resident of Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation from East High School in Nashville, Mrs. King continued her studies at Vanderbilt University, and she held an honorary Doctorate degree from Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 1941, Sarah King was joined in holy matrimony with Walter Hughey King; and

WHEREAS, they lived in Camp Pendleton, California, while Mr. King served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, with the 3rd Marine Division during the invasion of Iwo Jima and the occupation of Guam; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was a candidate for U.S. Congress in 1976, receiving the endorsement of the *Daily News Journal* in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as an appointed Advisor to Congressman Albert Gore, Jr.; he, in turn, served as one of her advisors from 1983-1986 during her three-year term as President General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); and

WHEREAS, Sarah King devoted much of her time to patriotic and cultural organizations; she renewed interest by the general public in the activities of the DAR, and she believed in peace through strength and a strong defense for the preservation of our American way of life; and

WHEREAS, recognized in 1978 as Rutherford County's Outstanding Citizen, Mrs. King served as Advisor to the Tennessee Commission of the Status of Women, she served on the State Library Commission by appointment of the Governor, and she served on the Rutherford County Courthouse Commission; and

WHEREAS, Sarah King was a member of the New York Society Daughters of the Cincinnati, the United States Daughters of 1812, the DFPA Huguenot Society of Tennessee, and she served as organizing Regent of the Oaklands Association; and

WHEREAS, she made the address to the City Council to save Oaklands Mansion as an historic site, and she also made the address to the County Court in 1959, which was responsible for saving the Rutherford County Courthouse from demolition; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King served as a Regent of the Sam Davis Memorial Association for eight years and member of the Board for more than thirty years; she was Regional Vice President of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities; and she was a member of the Rutherford County Historical Commission Chapter VII of the Colonial Dames of America; and

WHEREAS, Sarah King served as Vice Regent of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists, organizing Regent of the Captain Thomas Jefferson Chapter, and as a Life Member of the Ladies Hermitage Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was an active and devout member of First Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, Mrs. King was also deeply devoted to her family and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; a sister, Martha McKelley Meeks; and a brother, James Dudley McKelley, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her children, Walter Hughey King, Jr., M.D., Carmine King Jordan (Charlie), Newton Dudley King (Cynthia), and Sallie King Norton (William); and her grandchildren, Walter Hughey King III, Cannon King (Catherine), Mollie King, Collier King, Hamilton King, John Jordan (Sanna), Andrew Jordan, Susan Jordan Russell (Blake), Christopher King, William L. Norton IV (Heather), Jameson Norton (Anna), and Sarah Norton Ross (Adam); and

WHEREAS, she is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Caroline King, Cannon King, Wilson King, Andrew Jordan, Amelia Jordan, Bennett Jordan, Sarah Virginia Jordan, William L. Norton V, Charles Norton, MacAllister Russell, Tinnon Russell, Hamilton King, Jr., and Jameson Norton; and

WHEREAS, Sarah King leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sarah Elizabeth McKelley King, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. King.

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