

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 159

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Lawrence Connelly of Nashville.

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 John Lawrence Connelly of Nashville, a gentleman of the highest honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a prominent educator, noted historian and community leader, John Lawrence Connelly served with acumen and alacrity for many years as the Dean of Students of Aquinas College; and

WHEREAS, born on July 19, 1928, in Dickson County, John Lawrence Connelly was the son of John Neely and Thelma Hammon Connelly and was raised in Nashville where he graduated from North Nashville High School; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and Vanderbilt Peabody College, Mr. Connelly completed post-graduate work at Vanderbilt University and taught at East High School and University School of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a well-learned individual, Mr. Connelly truly enjoyed teaching and encouraged his students to excel in their every endeavor. The lasting impression of his positive influence, accessibility and his stalwart commitment to never renege on a promise remains with many former students to this day; and

WHEREAS, a true gentleman who possessed a great curiosity about the past, John Connelly had an acknowledged passion for history which led him to serve as Davidson County Historian for fifteen years, from 1996 until his recent resignation in March of 2011 just prior to his passing; and

WHEREAS, founder of the Friends of the Archives and president of the Metropolitan Historical Commission from 1985 until 1989, Mr. Connelly was the recipient of that organization's Achievement Award in 1996 and the Historical Achievement Award in

2007 in addition to penning a local column, *Historically Speaking*, in a local newspaper; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member of the historic Monroe Street United Methodist Church, John Connelly helped the facility fight off closure when he played the pivotal role in 1981 as founder of the Germantown Oktoberfest, a fundraising event in cooperation with the nearby Catholic church; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his wife, Edythe Dickens Connelly, and his brother, Herbert Connelly, John Lawrence Connelly is survived by two brothers, Donald Connelly and Bobby Connelly, a sister, Carolyn Connelly Coleman, and numerous nieces and nephews as well as a host of dear friends, former students, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, a cheerful man whose thoughtful advice was cherished by all who knew him, John Lawrence Connelly 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 John Lawrence Connelly, 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 Mr. Connelly.

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