

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to commend Franklin Delano McKee for his long and honorable service to the State of Tennessee, local governments and people of Tennessee, and the Tennessee valley region as an outstanding public servant as he approaches his ninetieth birthday on May 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders and public servants of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Franklin Delano McKee, who has served local governments in Tennessee and the Tennessee valley region as a planner, economic development advisor, consultant for the University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service, and leader in the organization of two beneficial entities that are now known as the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments and the Tennessee Central Economic Authority; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee is a native of Wilson County, who was born and reared on a farm near the boundary line between Wilson and Smith counties; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee honorably served this nation in Germany and later in Tennessee as an enlisted man in the United States Army during the early Cold War years of the 1950s, rising to the rank of sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee used the G.I. Bill to complete his college education and obtain two degrees, a Bachelor of Science degree from Peabody College and a master's degree in planning from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee began his career as a planner with Tennessee's State Planning Office, serving in the City of Jackson, before joining the planning staff of

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County and later the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee's career further developed after he joined the staff of the University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service (UT-CTAS) in the mid-1970s as a consultant, and he developed many relationships that propelled him in the direction of economic development and community organization to meet the needs of citizens; and

WHEREAS, after the Tennessee Valley Authority's decision in the 1970s to abandon their work on the planned Hartsville Nuclear Power Plant in Trousdale County, Franklin Delano McKee helped to organize and served as director of the Hartsville Coordinating Committee that involved local government and community leaders in Trousdale and adjoining counties in an effort to mitigate the negative economic effects of this action; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee was instrumental in the idea, implementation, and success of a new entity created by the General Assembly to promote the economic development of the counties affected by the abandonment of the aforementioned nuclear project, namely Trousdale, Smith, Macon, Sumner, and Wilson, first named the Four Lake Regional Industrial Development Authority, later reorganized and renamed as the Tennessee Central Economic Authority; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee has been a positive force not only in the economic development of the five counties served by the Tennessee Central Economic Authority and as a consultant for decades with UT-CTAS providing assistance to counties throughout the State but also in the organization of the Association of Tennessee Valley Counties, later renamed and expanded in scope as the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee served for decades as secretary to the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments and provided leadership to this organization that provides a forum for local governments in the area served by the Tennessee Valley Authority in Tennessee

and parts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina to interact and discuss public policy regarding electric power generation, water resource management, in lieu of tax payments to state and local governments, and economic development activities with the staff and officials of the Tennessee Valley Authority; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee worked closely with his friend, the late Honorable Representative Shelby Rhinehart, on the passage by the General Assembly of the Tennessee Revenue Sharing Act, which provides a sizeable portion of the in lieu of tax payments made by the Tennessee Valley Authority to the State of Tennessee to be allocated to cities and counties in Tennessee to the great benefit of the citizens of the local governments of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee continued his service to these organizations that he was such an integral part of into his retirement years and to this very day; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Delano McKee epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a dedicated public servant and true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is timely that Franklin Delano McKee be recognized for his exemplary service over a long period of time to the people of the State of Tennessee as he approaches his ninetieth birthday on May 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Franklin Delano McKee for his steadfast dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Franklin Delano McKee for his long and meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for a happy ninetieth birthday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.