

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 278

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wheeler "Jay" Nidiffer of Elizabethton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wheeler "Jay" Nidiffer; and

WHEREAS, Jay Nidiffer was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born May 28, 1933, Mr. Nidiffer was the son of Andy J. and Josephine Nave Nidiffer; he was a three-sport player at Unaka High School, where he was on the basketball, football, and baseball teams; after serving two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he attended Lincoln Memorial University on a baseball scholarship and graduated in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Jay Nidiffer began his exemplary coaching career at Johnson County High School; from there, he moved to Valley High School in Hot Springs, Virginia, for two seasons, and his 1960 basketball team, which included professional golf legend J.C. Snead, won the state championship. That same year, he coached the first integrated high school basketball team in the South at Clinton High School; and

WHEREAS, his collegiate coaching career included stops at Mercer University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of South Carolina Aiken, Walters State Community College, East Tennessee State University, and Auburn University, where he coached the 1985 Elite Eight team; he was also a two-time athletic director at Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Jay Nidiffer was honored with induction into the Carter County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nidiffer served as chairman of the Carter County Republican Party for four years; and

WHEREAS, Jay Nidiffer was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church in Elizabethton, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jay Nidiffer enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-two years, Katie Hodge Nidiffer; he was the proud father of Toby Nidiffer and the devoted grandfather of Andrew Nidiffer and Kerri Nidiffer; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his sister, Joann "PNut" Perkins; his brother-in-law, Moke Hodge; his sisters-in-law, Carolyn Nidiffer and Joan Hodge; and a host of extended family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nidiffer was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Isaac "Squeak" Nidiffer; and his sister, Kathryn Collins; and

WHEREAS, Jay Nidiffer 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 the members of 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Wheeler "Jay" Nidiffer, 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. Nidiffer.

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