

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 325

By Massey

A RESOLUTION honor the memory of Robert Fletcher
Worthington, Jr., of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert "Bob" Fletcher Worthington, Jr., of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Worthington 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, Bob Worthington was raised in Clinton and attended Castle Heights Military Academy; he continued his education by obtaining a law degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he was a member of SAE fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Bob Worthington answered his country's call to duty and honorably served in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant, Infantry, at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Worthington joined the firm of Baker and Baker in 1957; he and Howard Baker formed the firm Baker Worthington in 1964; the firm merged with another firm in 1994, forming Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell, and became the largest firm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in local and state politics, Bob Worthington served as an alternate delegate in the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Mr. Worthington served as general counsel of the 1982 World's Fair; member of the Knoxville Utilities board, the Knoxville Public Building Authority, and the Knoxville Zoological Society; vice president and director of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; and board member of the Knoxville Opera Company. He was also a participant in the first class of Leadership Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he ably served as a member of the Tennessee Valley Industrial Committee, the Tennessee Gas Association, the President's Council of the Tennessee Business Roundtable, the East Tennessee Intermodal Transportation Commerce Center, Inc., the Boathouse Benevolent Society, Inc., the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Florence Crittenton Agency, Inc., Development Council, and the Community School of the Arts; he was also an advisory board member of the Cumberland Trail State Park and chair of the Board of Governors Club LeConte; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Worthington was an honored member of the Dean's Circle of the University of Tennessee College of Law and was a former vice chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to professional awards and accolades, Bob Worthington was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in 1991 and received the highest legal ability and ethical rating by Martindale Hubble; and

WHEREAS, Bob Worthington was preceded in death by his beloved wife of forty years, Judy McCrary; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by two daughters: Betsy (Mike) Farry and Kathy (Mike) Kinnard; and four grandchildren: Robert (Erin) Farry, Thomas (Bri) Farry, Claire Kinnard (Jason) Parisi, and Clay Kinnard; and

WHEREAS, Bob Worthington 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert "Bob" Fletcher Worthington, Jr., 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. Worthington.

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