

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 465

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gerald "Jerry" Dowden Fridrich of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Gerald "Jerry" Dowden Fridrich; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Fridrich 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, a highly successful businessman in both the insurance and real estate industries in Nashville, Jerry Fridrich was founder and chair of Fridrich, Pinson and Rothberg Insurance Agency as well as the prominent real estate firm of Fridrich & Clark Realty; and

WHEREAS, born in Washington, Indiana, on January 3, 1933, Gerald Dowden Fridrich was the son of John and Pauline Fridrich and graduated from Washington Catholic High School where he was a basketball star and received an athletic scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, an Indiana high school basketball star, Jerry Fridrich held his county's basketball scoring record for over thirty years and was proud to continue his athletic career as a Vanderbilt Commodore where he was a member of the first team to play at now legendary Memorial Gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, wearing number 33, Mr. Fridrich enjoyed a solid career for the Commodores on the hardwood, starting many games during his junior and senior seasons after spending his first two years as a reserve player, while also taking to the diamond to become a three-year letter winner for the Vanderbilt baseball team; and

WHEREAS, it was at Vanderbilt that Jerry Fridrich would meet future wife, Barbara White, at a Catholic Newman Club function and the young couple would marry after their

graduation and travel to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he would fulfill his military service as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, eventually returning to Nashville, Jerry Fridrich ventured into the insurance business with his wife's first cousin, Skipper Donnelly, to establish Donnelly and Fridrich Insurance Company, which grew to become the Fridrich, Pinson and Rothberg Insurance Agency with Mr. Fridrich as chairman; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Fridrich expanded his business interests when he joined with his friend and fellow Vanderbilt graduate Hale Hooper in the establishment of Fridrich & Hooper Realty, which today is known as Fridrich & Clark Realty and home to more than 120 agents; and

WHEREAS, under Jerry Fridrich's leadership as chairman both the insurance agency and real estate firm won recognition for their innovations in technology and customer service, making them among the leaders in their market with a combined total employment of more than 180 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fridrich also lent his considerable business acumen and alacrity as a partner in Athens Distributing Company, a wholesale wine and liquor distributorship with offices in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Memphis, that is a leader in its field across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a resolute fan of Vanderbilt University and proud to give back to his alma mater, Jerry and Barbara Fridrich endowed the "Jerry and Barbara Fridrich & Family Basketball Scholarship" which will continue to make an impact in the life of a Vanderbilt Commodore basketball player each season; and

WHEREAS, a truly remarkable gentleman who was known for his loyalty and compassion, Jerry Fridrich was a faithful member of Saint Henry Catholic Church, which he served in numerous capacities over the years; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband and father, Jerry Fridrich was deeply devoted to his family, and for fifty-three years enjoyed the treasured companionship of his beloved wife, Barbara White Fridrich, until her death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fridrich is survived by his four children and their families: his son, Steve and Phyllis Fridrich and their children Sloan, Ella, and Steven; his son, Howard and his daughter Kristin and her husband Robbie King, and their son Rowe; his daughter, Lisa and her husband

Chip Grayson and their children, Shelley, Virginia, and John; and his son, Chip and Heather Fridrich and their children, Hannah, Dowden, and Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fridrich will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his sister, Jackie Grannan, and his treasured, dear friend, Mary Virginia Williams, along with a host of other family members; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Fridrich 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 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 Gerald "Jerry" Dowden Fridrich, 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. Fridrich.

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