

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 473

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Herbert Jackson "Jackie" Pope of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Herbert Jackson "Jackie" Pope; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Pope was a legendary athlete and a humble, kind-hearted gentleman of the highest caliber who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on February 5, 1941, on the banks of the Tennessee River in Loudon, Mr. Pope was the youngest child of Reece E. Pope, Sr., and Bess Brown Pope; he and his family moved to Oak Ridge in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Pope was a 1959 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, where he served as class president and made a name for himself as an exceptional multi-sport athlete; he was a key member of the track, basketball, and baseball teams, which won multiple regional and state championships during his tenure, but his first love was football; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Oak Ridge High School football team, Mr. Pope led the Wildcats to an undefeated season, culminating in a state championship in 1956; during the 1957 season, he emerged as one of Tennessee's premier backs and set new school records in rushing, passing, and return yardage; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Pope and the Wildcats were again undefeated state champions in 1958, with Mr. Pope being recognized as a first team All-American running back by *The Sporting News* and being named All State and Tennessee Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he was recruited by legendary coaches Johnny Majors and Gen. R.R. Neyland to play football at the University of Tennessee, where he played for the 1960 freshman

team and lettered for the varsity Volunteers, before transferring to Middle Tennessee State University, where he enjoyed a distinguished career as a running back, defensive end, and co-captain. He was named an AP All American in 1962 and also lettered in track and baseball for the Blue Raiders; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Middle Tennessee State University in 1964 with a degree in business, Jackie Pope began his coaching career at Brainerd High School in Chattanooga before accepting a coaching position at Western Kentucky University, where he earned a master's degree in administration; and

WHEREAS, such were his contributions to sports in Tennessee that he was inducted into the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2018; and

WHEREAS, a man of boundless skill and capacity, Mr. Pope served in the Tennessee National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve and worked in the Department of Energy's installations at Oak Ridge during the Cold War era; he enjoyed a multifaceted career in business, secondary and higher education, and coaching while also serving in the banking, utility regulation, safety, and transportation sectors; he retired in 2005 as vice president of TAG Transport; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded gentleman, Jackie Pope was a founding member of Sertoma of Oak Ridge, served as president of the Kingston Rotary Club, and was involved with the Boy Scouts of America, Oak Ridge Rowing Association, Oak Ridge Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the United Way; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pope was an active and devout longtime member of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge; and

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

WHEREAS, Jackie Pope is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-two years, Jane Chaney Pope; son, R. Jackson "Robbie" Pope and his wife, Sarah Malak Pope; grandchildren, Shelby Anne and Jackson; and Sarah's parents, Gary and Linda Malak, as well as her brother, Cody (Kelly) Malak; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his brother, Charles Wilson "Buddy" (Jean) Pope, Sr.; niece, Kim Pope (Deron) Jagers; nephews, Charles Wilson "Chuck" (Shauna) Pope, Jr., Jeffrey Henderson, and Michael Henderson; nieces, Peggy Pope, Dena Stone (Daniel) Talley, and Mika Stone; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mark S. (Glenda) Chaney and Brenda Chaney (Haymore) Vaughan; and cousins, Doris Pope Prater and Janet Pope Hails; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Pope was preceded in death by an infant brother, Reece E. Pope, Jr.; his sister, Faye Pope Henderson; and his brother, William T. Pope; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Pope 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Herbert Jackson "Jackie" Pope, 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. Pope.

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.