

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 532

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Claude Houser of Livingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Claude Houser; and

WHEREAS, John Houser 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 in Knoxville on March 21, 1935, Mr. Houser was the son of Claude Mack Houser and Lena Roberts Mayes; he spent most of his youth in Knox and Sevier counties, but he and his family briefly lived in Richmond, California, during World War II; and

WHEREAS, John Houser moved to Detroit, Michigan, and began working there in the mid-1950s; it was there that he met a fellow Tennessean, Anna Jean Webb, whom he married on October 12, 1957; and

WHEREAS, the happy couple returned home to Tennessee, and in 1961, Mr. Houser started Maryville Bumper Exchange, which he moved to Livingston ten years later and renamed Best Bumper Service; he continued to operate this business until 2000, and he was also part-owner of Cookeville Auto Auction as well as other businesses; and

WHEREAS, a community leader, John Houser served on the boards of the Upper Cumberland Development District, the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, and American Bank & Trust of the Cumberlands; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Houser led a tax revolt in Overton County in 1981 that led to his election as Overton County Executive the following year, a position he held for four years; in his later years, he chaired local county campaigns for Congressman Diane Black, Senator Lamar

Alexander, Senator Marsha Blackburn, Governor Bill Haslam, and President Donald J. Trump;
and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, he was named the Tennessee GOP Statesman of the Year for the 6th Congressional District in 2015 and was the recipient of the Overton County Republican Party Reagan Award for lifetime achievement in 2016; and

WHEREAS, John Houser was an active and devout member of West End Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years as an elder; and

WHEREAS, he had served as a member of the Tennessee Bible College Board of Directors since 2002 and as chairman since 2010, a position he held at the time of his passing; and

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

WHEREAS, John Houser enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-one years, Ann Webb Houser; he was the proud father of Mark Houser and Patty Smith; the devoted grandfather of Matthan Houser, Airica Puckett, Brandon Smith, and Hannah Houser; and the treasured great-grandfather of Luther Greene Puckett V, Mattison Blaise Houser, Huttson Drayke Houser, Aubrianna Berkley Puckett, Jett Warren Houser, John Crewe Puckett, Beckett Knox Smith, and Kylie Brooke Smith; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his brothers, Don Mayes, Ronnie Mayes, and Eddie Mayes; his sister, Sandra Coker; his aunt, Faye Wilson; and a host of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Houser was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Hillard Houser; and

WHEREAS, John Houser 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 John Claude Houser, 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. Houser.

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