

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 537

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kim Rene Helper of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kim Rene Helper of Franklin; and

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

WHEREAS, born in Buffalo, New York, to Don and June Schweizer, Kim Rene Helper graduated from Sweet Home High School, Niagara County Community College, and Buffalo State University, before she went on to work as a radio news reporter and anchor at Buffalo, New York, radio stations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helper began working in a U.S. Senator's office in Washington, D.C., as well as in public relations for the Environmental Protection Agency, and she then decided to go into law, graduating from Stetson University in 1993 and beginning her law career working with the Florida State Attorney's office from 1993 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Tennessee, she joined the office of the 21st District Attorney General in 1998; through her depth of legal expertise and passion, she became an Assistant District Attorney General in 2003 and then the 21st District Attorney General in 2008; and

WHEREAS, she was well regarded by her community and peers alike, a fact testified to by her three elected terms as the District Attorney General and her twenty-five years of public service in total; and

WHEREAS, during her time as the District Attorney General, Mrs. Helper served on several Governor-appointed committees, including a judicial nominating committee, and she

participated in the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, serving as president of the Conference from 2015 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, not content to commit only her public life to service, Mrs. Helper spent her private time and talents at St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a member of the vestry and a Sunday school teacher, as well as at local charities like My Friend's House, the Davis House Child Advocacy Center, and Williamson County CASA; and

WHEREAS, apart from her many accomplishments and labors, Mrs. Helper enjoyed going to Disney World with her two daughters, decorating the family home for holidays, maintaining her doll collection, shopping, and following the Buffalo Bills and Nashville Predators; and

WHEREAS, she was known at all times to maintain the highest standards of ethical practice and virtue, and even in death, she donated her organs to support the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helper will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her husband of forty-one years, Gerry Helper; her daughters, Renee and Abby Helper; her mother-in-law, Karen (Don) Bartz; her brothers-in-law, Richard (Lisa) Helper, Robert (Jenny) Helper, and Gregg Helper; her sister-in-law, Kathleen (Chuck) Tyno; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Sheree Wiser; her father-in-law Gerard Helper, Sr.; and her son, Brent Michael; and

WHEREAS, Kim Helper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kim Rene Helper, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Helper.

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.