

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 549

By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John H. "Jack" Morris III of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John H. "Jack" Morris III; and

WHEREAS, Jack Morris 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, Mr. Morris was born in Memphis during the Great Depression to parents John and Mary Kirk Morris. He was a graduate of Memphis Technical High School and furthered his education by attending the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, Jack Morris served in the United States Air National Guard during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after working as a zone manager for International Harvester, Mr. Morris started working with his step father-in-law in the auto glass business. After only a few short years, Mr. Morris took over the company and renamed it Jack Morris Auto Glass; and

WHEREAS, Jack Morris earned the respect of his employees and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work, and his name and business are nationally recognized in the glass industry, as he once served as the president of the National Glass Association; and

WHEREAS, a man dedicated to public service, Mr. Morris was elected to represent Memphis in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1962. Throughout his service in the 83rd General Assembly, Representative Morris worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents in Shelby County, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, after departing the Capitol, Jack Morris managed Buford Ellington's successful West Tennessee campaign for governor in 1966. Two years later, he and his wife, Jane, represented Tennessee at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He then served on the Shelby County Election Commission from 1969 through 1974, and he was appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the Southern Growth Policies Board in 1979; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Morris served his beloved Memphis community as chairman for a number of organizations, including the Memphis Jaycees; Memphis Light, Gas and Water; the Memphis Chamber of Commerce; the Mid-South Fair; and Lambuth College; and

WHEREAS, he was also a board member of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, the 911 board, the Memphis Airport Commission, and M.S. Carriers; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Jack Morris was appointed in 2005 to chair the board of Regional One Hospital, formerly known as "the Med," which was in an economic crisis. Though many believed the medical facility would succumb to its financial struggles, Mr. Morris defied the odds and, with his stalwart leadership, guided the hospital back to prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Jack Morris was also instrumental in initiating a number of Memphis construction projects, including the Libertyland amusement park, a new home for the University of Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing, and Methodist Healthcare's Hospice Residence; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Morris was named Outstanding Jaycee of the Year, Outstanding Kiwanian of the Year, and Chief Goodfellow. He also received the Lambuth College Presidential Award, the Methodist Healthcare Foundation Life Inspiration Award, and an honorary doctor of laws degree; and

WHEREAS, Jack Morris was an active and devout member of the Christ United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully in various leadership roles for several decades; and

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

WHEREAS, Jack Morris will be remembered by his loving wife of sixty-two years, Jane Morris; his children, John Morris, LuAnne Burkett, Linda Morris, and Paul Morris; his sisters, Ann Heffernan and Carole Bizot; his grandchildren, Jeff Burkett, Ryan Burkett, Sarah Morris, Buck Morris, Bailey Morton, Sydney Morton, Courtland Morris, and Alison Morris; his two great-grandchildren; and a host of beloved relatives, coworkers, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris 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, in the book *A Heart for Memphis*, author David Yawn observed that the life of Jack Morris was "a model for those wanting to grow a successful service business, those wanting to make a difference in their community, those wanting to be surrounded by a large and loving family and church community, or those simply wanting to live a happy, fulfilling, and complete life"; 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 John H. "Jack" Morris III, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his extraordinary contributions to the people of Tennessee, 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 and friends of Mr. Morris.

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