

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 650

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas R. Bell, Sr., of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas R. Bell, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bell 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 Chattanooga on February 26, 1928, Thomas Bell was the son of Joseph S. Bell, Sr., and Hattie Rowe Bell; and

WHEREAS, he was a 1950 graduate of the University of Tennessee, and he served in the United States Army during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell served with acumen and alacrity at East Tennessee Natural Gas for forty-one years; he began as a night dispatcher and served as president for more than twenty years, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his community, Thomas Bell served as chair of Covenant Health System, the management committee for the 1982 World's Fair, the Tennessee Gas Association, and the YMCA of Metropolitan Knoxville; he also served as board member of the University of Tennessee Chancellors Association, Webb School of Knoxville, and the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bell was an active and devout member of Second Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; 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, Thomas Bell enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Aggie, and was the proud parent of Bush and Jamie Bell, Tom and Preciosa Bell, Mary and Scott Boltwood, David and Katie Bell, and daughter-in-law, Kirby Bell; and

WHEREAS, he was also the loving grandfather of thirteen grandchildren: Patrick Bell, Katherine Bell, Thomas Bell III, Margaret Bell, Sam Bell, Leo Rincon-Bell, Rowe Bell, Ava Boltwood, Lanson Boltwood, Rives Boltwood, William Bell, Harrison Bell, and Maggie Bell; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Bell 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas R. Bell, Sr., 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. Bell.

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