

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 679

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald M. Elkins.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Donald M. Elkins; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elkins 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, Donald Elkins graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1958 and finished his career at his alma matter as the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, retiring in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elkins also earned his master's degree and a doctorate in agronomy from Auburn University; and

WHEREAS, before returning to Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Elkins spent twenty-eight years working for Southern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Donald Elkins received many awards and accolades in his outstanding career, including being named the top agronomy teacher in the United States by the American Society of Agronomy, the Fellow Award and Ensminger Distinguished Teacher Award from the National Association of College Teachers Association, the Tennessee Technological University Distinguished Agricultural Alumnus, and the Tennessee Technological University Distinguished Alumnus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elkins started student ambassador programs at both Tennessee Technological University and Southern Illinois University, which allow outstanding agricultural

and human ecology students to recruit new students and be public relations representatives for the their schools; and

WHEREAS, Donald Elkins was an active and devout member of Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Donald Elkins will be dearly missed by his wife of fifty years, Earline Mizell Elkins; sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Richelle Elkins and Dan and Amelia Elkins; grandchildren, Tyler, Anna, and Joseph; and brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Nancy Elkins; and

WHEREAS, Donald Elkins 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 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald M. Elkins, 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. Elkins.

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