

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 711

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sterling Haskel "Hack" Ayers of LaFollette.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Sterling Haskel "Hack" Ayers; and

WHEREAS, Hack Ayers 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 Stinking Creek on February 10, 1936, Hack Ayers was the son of John "High Johnny" Ayers and Lassie Clepper Ayers Baird; he moved to LaFollette at the age of five and was raised in the motel and restaurant business; and

WHEREAS, a man of many hats, Mr. Ayers held several positions throughout his estimable career; he served as a State Representative for two terms and as County Court Clerk; he was an auctioneer, a hotelier, and a realtor, and he founded Hack's Bargain Barn and Ayers Auction and Real Estate with his wife; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his profession and community, Mr. Ayers was involved in many organizations; he was the past president and Hall of Fame member of both the National Auctioneers Association and the Tennessee Auctioneers Association, a Rotarian, and a Gideon; and

WHEREAS, known throughout his community as the "unofficial historian of Campbell County," Hack Ayers was a member of the Story Teller's Club; he co-authored a book with Beverly Porter, titled *Hills, Deals, and Stills*, which recounted his personal and regional stories; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayers was an active and devout member of the LaFollette Church of God, which he served faithfully for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayers enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Tomi Housley Ayers; he was the proud father of Debra Nelson Lawson, Traci Dower, and Codi Provins; the loving grandfather of Nikki and Allen Bumgardner, Joshua and Brooklyn Nelson, Addison and Matt Russell, Alissa and Brian Miracle, 2nd Lieutenant Sterling "Rusty" and Sarah Provins, Preston and Loren Provins, and Trace Provins; and the doting great-grandfather of eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his siblings, R.L. Ayers and Carolyn Human, and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; his son, John Wesley Ayers; his brother, John Ayers, Jr.; and his sister, Jerri Roach Carney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayers 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 Sterling Haskel "Hack" Ayers, 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. Ayers.

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.