

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 715

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Chester Warren Neel of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Chester Warren Neel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Warren Neel 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 Mobile, Alabama, in 1937 to Ena Elizabeth and Chester William Neel, Dr. Neel spent his childhood in Lucedale, Mississippi, where he played football in high school; and

WHEREAS, Warren Neel earned his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University and Master of Business Administration degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he began his academic career teaching mathematics in a small rural high school in Mississippi and completed his military service in the Mississippi National Guard; he was later employed by International Paper Company in Mobile, Alabama, and in New York; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Dr. Warren Neel joined the University of Tennessee College of Business Administration as a faculty member in the department of management; he was named associate dean of the college in 1974 and dean in 1977, in which capacity he estimably served for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neel also served as the interim president of Lincoln Memorial University in 2009; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to public service, Dr. Warren Neel served in two governors' cabinets, first as commissioner of economic security under Lamar Alexander and later as commissioner of finance and administration under Don Sundquist; in addition, he served on the

boards of nine publicly and privately traded companies, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Clayton Homes, and JTV; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neel returned to the University of Tennessee to co-found the Center for Corporate Governance in 2003, where he served as director until 2013; in recognition of his peerless service to the university, the center was named in his honor in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Warren Neel was an active and devout member of the Church of Ascension, which he served faithfully for many years on the vestry; and

WHEREAS, a tireless and committed educator, he was always eager to gather knowledge and share it with his students, his many friends, and his family; he also had a lifelong love of music, had an excellent singing voice, and enjoyed bird hunting, cutting wood, hiking, handball, and travel; and

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

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of twenty-four years, Annelle; brother, Allen Neel; children, Todd Neel, Eric Neel, and Anna Neel Biederman; stepchildren, Kyla Carter and Nathan Foutch; seven grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Warren Neel 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 we should 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 Dr. Chester Warren Neel, 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 Dr. Neel.

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.