

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Matthew Walker III of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Dr. Matthew Walker III; a gifted giant in the field of biomedical engineering and beloved gentleman of great compassion and intellect; and

WHEREAS, born on November 10, 1964, in Newark, New Jersey, Dr. Matthew Walker was the son of Matthew Walker, Jr., and Ramona Bard; he resided and served for many years in various cities, including Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; and Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker's formal education includes training at the Division of Health Sciences and Technology at Harvard-MIT and the completion of his doctorate at Tulane University School of Medicine; he then served as a mechanical and biomedical engineer with NASA in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Matthew Walker was selected as one of twelve in the nation for the annual Merck Fellowship program and went on to work for Merck Pharmaceuticals for ten years, where he led cardiovascular ultrasound imaging and co-developed three blockbuster drugs, Vytarin, Januvia, and Candesarten; he also led the novel technologies adoption team; and

WHEREAS, following his success with Merck Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Walker began work at Vanderbilt University, where he served as full-time Associate Professor of the Practice of Biomedical Engineering at the engineering school, Associate Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Associate Director of the Medical Innovators Development Program at the medical school, and a faculty member of Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Center of the Vanderbilt-Meharry Medical School Alliance; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity teaching, developing, and implementing an innovative biotech design curriculum across departments within the schools of engineering and medicine and within the biotechnology/medical device industry; he led the biomedical engineering design program, which required him to create thirty-two to forty projects each year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Matthew Walker's teams consistently won first place in the engineering schoolwide design competition; he co-created the Engineering Grand Rounds program that closes the gap between industry and academic models of biomedical innovation, and he coauthored the trans-institutional grant that focuses on integrating social and innovation activism; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the love and companionship of his wife, Anna Walker, and their son, Matthew Walker IV; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Matthew Walker III, 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. Walker.

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.