

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 771

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to commend James Elkins for his honorable and astute service to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the people of this State.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Elkins is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary sixty-three-year tenure with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Mr. Elkins distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, at eighty-nine years of age, Mr. Elkins still serves the TWRA's engineering division, operating heavy machinery and building waterways; he wakes up at 4:30 every morning to travel to whichever of the state's ninety-five counties his job requires that day; and

WHEREAS, a World War II veteran, Jim Elkins served in the United States Army as a sniper and was involved in the 1944 Normandy Invasion; a decorated hero, he received the Purple Heart for his bravery during the war; and

WHEREAS, Jim Elkins' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elkins also works tirelessly for his church, Franklin Road Baptist Church, where every Sunday morning for the past thirty-three years, he has arrived early at the bus yard to prepare the buses for the transportation of congregants; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elkins is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, for sixty-four joyful years, Jim Elkins shared the loving companionship of his wife, Sarah Etta Elkins, until her passing; the couple had two sons, Barry and Mark Elkins, and a daughter, Rita Bowen; and

WHEREAS, Jim Elkins is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; 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 hereby recognize and commend James Elkins for his honorable and exemplary service to the good people of Tennessee and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

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