

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 838

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Forster Baird of Jellico.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Forster Baird; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed former mayor of the City of Jellico, Forster Baird was a beloved educator and consummate professional who provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird was born on April 17, 1937, to Arley Baird and Myrtle Marie Lynch Baird in Elk Valley and graduated from Jellico High School in 1960; and

WHEREAS, he continued his education at Cumberland College, from which he received a bachelor's degree, and the University of Tennessee, where he earned a master's degree and completed additional postgraduate coursework; and

WHEREAS, Forster Baird began his estimable teaching career at Newcomb Elementary School in 1970; shortly thereafter, he transferred to Jellico High School and taught a number of subjects over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his tenure at Jellico High School; he served as principal on multiple occasions, most notably during the transition to the new school facility in 1996, before taking his well-deserved retirement in 2001; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving the students of Jellico for more than thirty years, Forster Baird served the good people of Jellico as a member of the Jellico City Council, to which he first won election in the early 1980s and was reelected multiple times; and

WHEREAS, Forster Baird went on to win election to several terms as mayor of the City of Jellico and was later elected to the Campbell County Commission, where he represented the people of the Fifth District of Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, later in his political career, Mr. Baird became the first person in the State to be elected and serve concurrently as a mayor and a county commissioner; and

WHEREAS, as an educator and as an elected leader, Forster Baird enriched the lives of all those who knew him while helping improve the community in which he lived; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird attended Crouches Creek Baptist Church for more than fifty years and demonstrated his Christian faith in all aspects of his life; and

WHEREAS, he 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 more than fifty-five years, Barbara Douglas Baird; daughter, Sherry Baird Lancaster; two grandsons, William Tyler Lancaster and Zachary Lee Lancaster; sister, Brenda Baird (Richard) Vanscoy; brother-in-law, Steve (Carol) Douglas; and three sisters-in-law, Brenda Baird, Terry Baird, and Sharon Douglas Wallen; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by several nieces and nephews: Jessica Gabbard, Robbie Gabbard, James Baird, Kenneth Baird, Greg Baird, William Baird, Leah Baird, B. J. Baird, Tammy Vanscoy, Jeff Vanscoy, Michelle Vanscoy, Scarlett Baird, Rhonda Baird, Kent Douglas, Joshua Douglas, Gregory Price, Caron Bailey, and Jenny Gottman; many great-nieces and great-nephews; and a host of friends, colleagues, and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Baird was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, David Baird and Phoebe Baird; his maternal grandparents, Lee Lynch and Mary "Granny Doc" Lynch; his brothers, Herman Baird, Kenneth Burton Baird, and Elbert Baird; his sister, Emma Elaine Baird Carson; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Edgar "Red" Douglas and Virgie Huddleston Douglas; and

WHEREAS, Forster Baird 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William Forster Baird, 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. Baird.

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.