

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 843

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bertha Sipes Vaughan
of Bolivar.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bertha Sipes Vaughan; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan was an exemplary woman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Bolivar on February 25, 1938, Bertha Sipes Vaughan was the daughter of Clint Hammons Sipes and Ruth Elizabeth Baker Sipes and a 1956 graduate of Bolivar Central High School; and

WHEREAS, while in high school, she had her own band, Bertha Sipes & The Rhythm Ranch Boys, and she sang on WBBJ-TV in Jackson and hosted her own radio show in Bolivar; she moved to Memphis in the late 1950s to sing on *The Slim Rhodes Show*, which featured Slim, Dusty, and Speck Rhodes. They appeared regularly on WMC-TV and toured extensively throughout the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan returned home to Bolivar in the early 1960s and married the love of her life, Joseph Vaughan, on August 2, 1963; the couple enjoyed forty-nine years of marriage before his passing in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Vaughan served with acumen and alacrity for many years as a secretary at Bolivar Lumber Company, where she worked alongside her husband; she retired from this position in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan was a lifelong member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, which she served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher; she was a member of the church choir and traveled with the Walnut Grove Gospel Quartet; and

WHEREAS, known to many in the community as "Miss Bertha," she was one of the founders of Hardeman County's *Hee Haw* program in 1979, and she continued to lend her talents to the production for the next forty years, during which time the show raised more than \$400,000 for cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan was an active member of the Hardeman County Arts Council and past chairwoman of the American Cancer Society; she was honored with the Pride of Tennessee Award in 1995; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Vaughan was the proud mother of Gregory R. (Janna) Vaughan, Jason (Lisa) Vaughan, and Beth Vaughan; the loving grandmother of Shannon (George) Morin, Jake Vaughan, Josh Vaughan, Taylor Vaughan, Haley Vaughan, Tanner Vaughan, Hayley Hoskinson, and Ryan Hoskinson; and the treasured great-grandmother of Arielle Williams and Aubrey Williams; and

WHEREAS, she is lovingly remembered by her sisters, Nancy (Burton) Dillard, Margaret Howell, and Susan Sipes Webster; her brother, David (Rhonda) Sipes; her stepsisters, Betty Jordan and Nancy Gray; her stepbrothers, Tommy Wharton and Terry Wharton; and a host of extended family and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Vaughan was preceded in death by her stepmother, Jean Wharton Sipes; her sister, Annie Marie Crawford; and her stepbrother, Wade Wharton; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Vaughan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 Bertha Sipes Vaughan, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Vaughan.

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.