

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Herman Baker of Decatur County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Herman Baker; and

WHEREAS, John H. Baker 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, the son of Ellison and Estle Griggs Baker, John Herman Baker was born on January 7, 1938, and spent his entire life in Decatur County; and

WHEREAS, the tenth of eleven children born to the Bakers, John Baker was raised in rural Decatur County and worked on the family farm at an early age, when the family relocated from the Spence community to the Yellow Springs community during World War II and farmed land near the Bangus Cave in Jeanette; and

WHEREAS, John Baker attended Spence School and Parsons High School, where he worked in the cafeteria to pay for his lunch, cleaning the dining room and sometimes washing dishes; and

WHEREAS, several years after his graduation from high school, Mr. Baker met his future bride, Anita Graves, on a date set up by a mutual acquaintance. The couple was joined in holy matrimony on January 7, 1958, by her brother, Reta Graves; and

WHEREAS, the Bakers' joyous union was blessed over the years by three devoted children, Darla, Denise, and John David, as the young family bravely faced life's troubles and uncertainties; and

WHEREAS, John Baker was employed by the Kaddis Screw Company for several years while Mrs. Baker helped make ends meet by operating a little sandwich shop, taking food orders from Mr. Baker's co-workers; and

WHEREAS, when the employees of Kaddis went on strike, Mr. Baker found work in Dickson at another screw factory. After being severely injured on the job, he made money wherever he could find the opportunity, taking jobs as a plumber, electrician, and repairman; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker began a successful business making purses at home with Mr. Baker's help, eventually selling purses to customers all over North America; and

WHEREAS, settling into the family home in the Iron Hill community, the Bakers started another business, Nita's Fried Pies, which was a local favorite and staple for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker also wrote a column, the "Iron Hill News," for *The News Leader* for many years; after his wife's passing in 2012, Mr. Baker, who enjoyed writing, continued her column, often sharing his experience of growing up in Decatur County with his keen insight and wonderful homespun humor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker was an active and devout member of Iron Hill Pentecostal Church, where he was baptized in 1957 by his brother-in-law, Reta Graves; and

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

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Anita Graves Baker, Mr. Baker was the proud father of Darla Baker Horner, Denise Baker Anglin, and John David Baker; the devoted grandfather of Brant Horner, Brock Horner, Michael Anglin, Kimberly Wilson, Myra Davis, and Ryan Baker; and the treasured great-grandfather of Reece Horner, Ethan Horner, Blake Horner, Micah Anglin, Hannah Anglin, Zach Anglin, John Mac Anglin, Raven Tharpe, Kaydence Gibson, Landon Braden, Nate Wilson, Brooklyn Wilson, Gage Davis, Ava Davis, Ashley Davis, Gavin Baker, and Drake Baker; and

WHEREAS, John Baker will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his siblings Lottie Haynes, Frances Balderston, and Kenneth Baker, and a special family friend, Bonnie Moody, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, John Baker 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Herman Baker, 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. Baker.

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