

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Wilder "Bill" Webb.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Wilder "Bill" Webb; and

WHEREAS, born on December 17, 1923, to Raymond and Flora Brite Webb, Bill Webb 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, a member of our country's Greatest Generation, Mr. Webb served in the United States Army in World War II, during which time he was stationed in France and Belgium; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his military service, Bill Webb attended the University of Tennessee Martin Junior College on the GI Bill and played on the basketball and football teams; in 1950, he earned a scholarship to Mississippi State University, where he was a member of the football and track teams; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, he moved to Metropolis, Illinois, and managed D&W Auto Parts for a number of years. In 1968, he moved his young family to Selmer to fulfill his lifelong dream to be a coach and teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Webb was the first athletics director for the newly opened McNairy Central High School (MCHS); he also served as the school's assistant principal, head basketball coach, and track coach and designed and built the MCHS football and baseball fields; and

WHEREAS, after taking his well-deserved retirement, Bill Webb was appointed Selmer City Judge, and he and his wife were named McNairy County Citizens of the Year in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Webb was involved with numerous organizations and groups in his community, including The Gideons International, Meals on Wheels, McNairy County Retired Teachers, and American Legion, and he was an inaugural member of the Selmer Museum; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of First United Methodist Church in Selmer, which he served faithfully for many years before he and his wife moved to Tupelo in 2011; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by three daughters, Becky (Jack) Peebles, Molly (Ed) Meisenheimer, and Amy (Jack) McFerrin; six grandchildren, Drew (Kate) Meisenheimer, Tyler (Lindsey) Meisenheimer, John Blythe Peebles, Kendall (Todd) Schoborg, Anna Grace (Grant) Phifer, and Maggie McFerrin; eleven great-grandchildren, Webb Meisenheimer, Murphy Meisenheimer, Mae Meisenheimer, Eli Meisenheimer, Miller Meisenheimer, Aaron Meisenheimer, Bennett Meisenheimer, Beau Schoborg, Dorothy Schoborg, Jewell Phifer, and Jack Phifer; and a host of extended family and close friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of seventy years, Tommye Lancaster Webb, his parents, and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bill Webb 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 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 and service of William Wilder "Bill" Webb, 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. Webb.

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.