

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1060

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Walter Glenn Birdwell, Jr., for his more than sixty-five years at Citizens Bank in Carthage.

WHEREAS, it is our pleasure to recognize a gentleman who has served his community with business acumen for more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, at the age of ninety-one, Walter Glenn Birdwell, Jr., has far exceeded the proverbial bankers' hours for more than sixty-five years at Citizens Bank in Carthage, where he once gave future Vice President Al Gore, Jr., his first home mortgage loan; and

WHEREAS, Walter Birdwell is the chairman of the board of directors at Citizens Bank and is heavily involved in the bank's investments in municipal bonds, although he is not above completing any task, even sweeping the floors, if that is what needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, born in Gallatin on December 2, 1928, Mr. Birdwell moved to Smith County with his parents when he was nine months old; his family organized Citizens Bank, which opened with \$30,000 in assets on October 26, 1929, just three days before the stock market crash of 1929; and

WHEREAS, Walter Birdwell graduated from Carthage High School in 1947 and studied business at Vanderbilt University; after college, he was a bank examiner for six months and then served in the United States Armed Forces for two years during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, returning home, Mr. Birdwell was once again a bank examiner for six months before joining Citizens Bank in July 1954; in his more than sixty-five years in the banking industry, he has witnessed the evolution of computers in banking but still adheres to the lessons of his father, who taught him to be conservative and focus on the strength of the bank; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Mr. Birdwell was one of the first bankers to be inducted into the Tennessee Banking Association's Leaders in Banking Excellence in 2007 in recognition of his achievements in banking, community service, and civic involvement; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Walter Birdwell is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife of more than sixty-seven years, Helen Walton Birdwell; his children, Glenn Birdwell, Ann Birdwell Dobson, and Sue Birdwell Ishee; and his two grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Birdwell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to recognize Walter Birdwell for his many decades as a leader in the banking industry; 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 and commend Walter Glenn Birdwell, Jr., for his more than sixty-five years of service at Citizens Bank in Carthage and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness.

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.