

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1124

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kay Louise Snyder Simmons of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kay Louise Snyder Simmons; and

WHEREAS, Kay Simmons was a consummate professional and intrepid community leader who devoted her life to improving and advancing educational institutions throughout Nashville; and

WHEREAS, born in Louisville, Kentucky, Kay Simmons attended Assumption High School and Seneca High School, from which she graduated in 1967; she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of Kentucky in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Simmons thereafter relocated to Nashville, where she began her important, decades-long career as a fundraiser, working with many of Music City's flagship educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, she served as a development officer for Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Medical Center, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Vanderbilt Law School, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Montgomery Bell Academy, University School of Nashville, and Metro Nashville Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, although she was not trained as an educator, she continued her passion for service in education when she was elected as the interim head of school with University School of Nashville for the 1990-1991 academic year; and

WHEREAS, her leadership in local education continued, as she served as the founding executive director of the Canby Robinson Society at the Vanderbilt Medical Center and the Dean's Council at the Vanderbilt Law School; and

WHEREAS, Kay Simmons shifted her focus to public education in 2003 when she became the founding director of the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, now known as the Nashville Public Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Simmons was a special assistant to former Director of Nashville Public Schools Pedro Garcia from 2007 to 2008 before serving on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, representing District 9, from August 2009 to August 2012; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Kay Simmons's invaluable service to Nashville students in her official capacities, she made a positive impact on students visiting from other countries, hosting more than twenty-five exchange students in her home over the years; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, she was active in making her community a better place for all concerned, as evidenced by her service on many nonprofit and government boards and commissions, including the LandTrust for Tennessee, Greenways for Nashville, the Metro Greenways Commission, the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, the Maddox Charitable Fund, the Adventure Science Center, Metro Parks and Recreation, Metro Historical Commission, the vestry of Christ Church Cathedral, and accreditation committees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, in her personal life, Mrs. Simmons was an accomplished cook, avid reader, and exceptional gardener, tending a beautiful flower garden at her longtime home on Richland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Kay Simmons was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; her greatest joy was being "MomMom" to nine amazing grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband of fifty years, Keith Simmons, and their three children, Jennifer Simmons (Daniel) McGugin, Lauren Kay Simmons (Brian) Beem,

and Barton William (Hayley) Simmons; her grandchildren, Dan McGugin, Thomas McGugin, Matthew McGugin, Anna Beem, Sophie Beem, Will Beem, Scout Simmons, Talley Simmons, and Tru Simmons; her siblings, Susan Snyder Moremen, Pat Snyder (Bobby Garfinkle), Tom (Cathy) Snyder, and Don Snyder; and her buddy and trusted and loved caregiver, Val Reese; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Simmons was preceded in death by her parents, William Riley Snyder and Edith LaVerne Wulf Snyder; and

WHEREAS, Kay Simmons 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kay Louise Snyder Simmons, 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. Simmons.

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.