

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1673

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Willie Cleve Vaden on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Willie Cleve Vaden celebrated his 100th birthday on April 13, 2022, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vaden has lived an amazing life and has experienced firsthand the breadth and span of American history; and

WHEREAS, born on April 13, 1922, Willie Vaden is the third of ten children born to John C. and Fannie B. Vaden; he grew up on a farm in Trousdale County, where his father taught him to tend cattle, sheep, hogs, and all types of vegetable and fruit crops; and

WHEREAS, it was during these early years that he also learned the value of hard work, education, financial management, and faith in God; he became an avid student of the Bible at the age of sixteen and professed his faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized at Gravel Hill Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, at age twenty-two, Mr. Vaden ventured to Louisville, Kentucky, where he obtained employment with the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad; over the years, he rose through the ranks from mailroom clerk to supervisor of the passenger and freight train schedules; and

WHEREAS, while in Kentucky, Willie Vaden met Earline Perry, and the two were wed on December 13, 1945; their union was blessed with a daughter, Peggy, and son, John. The family attended Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, and Mr. Vaden became an ordained deacon in 1955; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from L&N in 1983, he returned to his home community in Tennessee to farm and reconnect with Gravel Hill Baptist Church, where he led Bible study and prayer; over the last four decades, he has been an active member of the greater Hartsville community; and

WHEREAS, Willie Vaden has had many blessings throughout his lifetime, chief among them the love and companionship of his wife of seventy-two years, Earline, who passed in 2017, and his two children, five grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and ten great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vaden is a joy to be around and a blessing to all who have the good fortune of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, as Willie Vaden enters his eleventh decade, he continues to be admired for his wisdom, spirit of generosity, integrity, and enthusiasm for life; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; 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 and congratulate Willie Cleve Vaden on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

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.