

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1674

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Howard Wesley Roddy of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Howard Wesley Roddy of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Howard Roddy 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 lifelong resident of Chattanooga, Howard Wesley Roddy was a 1967 graduate of Riverside High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University and a Master of Science degree in Health Administration from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Howard Roddy began his career in public service as an environmentalist with the Chattanooga Hamilton County Health Department and later served as the administrator of the Dodson Avenue Community Health Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, at the request of County Executive Dalton Roberts, Mr. Roddy became the first African American to serve as administrator of the Hamilton County Health Department, the top administrative job in the agency, which he would hold for the next seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Howard Roddy offered himself as a mayoral candidate for office, receiving more than forty-two percent of the vote and narrowly losing the election; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Roddy joined Memorial Health Care System, where he served as vice president of advocacy and healthy communities and devoted himself to increasing healthcare access for minority populations; and

WHEREAS, he played an instrumental role in achieving a tobacco-free campus at Memorial and the opening of three community-based primary care clinics in underserved neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, among his many accomplishments, the Westside clinic was reopened; he partnered with the Salvation Army to open the East Lake Health Center; and he facilitated the collaboration of Memorial and the Interfaith Hospitality Network to provide nursing services for the city's Homeless Health Care Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roddy created the first Minority Health Fair in Chattanooga's Westside community in 1999 and established a Memorial Scholarship program to place African-American students from the University of Alabama in the Memorial Residency for Healthcare Administration program; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he received the Tennessee State Diversity Champion Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association at its annual meeting in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Roddy Howard lent his time and talents to a number of local and national boards, including the Regional Health Council, which he served as chair; the Alexian National Senior Ministries Board, which he served as secretary and treasurer; the University of Chattanooga Foundation; the Chattanooga Area YMCA; the Salvation Army; and the Chattanooga Urban League; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the first class of Leadership Chattanooga, a past president of the Riverbend Festival, board emeritus of the Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union, and a two-term appointee by Governor Phil Bredesen and Governor Bill Haslam to the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a charter member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Gamma Pi Chapter; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and founding member of Transforming Faith Baptist Church, which he served faithfully as trustee and treasurer; he was a former member of Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church; and

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

WHEREAS, Howard Roddy 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Howard Wesley Roddy, 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. Roddy.

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.