

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1805

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmy Gentry of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmy Gentry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gentry was an extraordinary Franklin native, war hero, and beloved coach who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's Greatest Generation, Jimmy Gentry volunteered to join the United States Army at the tender age of sixteen and served his nation with courage and honor during World War II; and

WHEREAS, having never been outside of Williamson County, the young Mr. Gentry boarded a train bound for a ship in the New York harbor to begin his military service; and

WHEREAS, in the European Theatre of World War II, Jimmy Gentry helped rescue and liberate victims of the Holocaust at the Dachau concentration camp in April 1945 as a member of the Army's 42nd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gentry fought in the Battle of the Bulge and survived the invasion at Omaha Beach, the greatest and bloodiest invasion in military history, and returned safely to his beloved Franklin and his fiancée, Rebecca Channell; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Gentry then embarked on a fifty-year career as a renowned high school football coach and teacher; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in athletics and education, Coach Gentry taught and coached at Franklin High School, Battle Ground Academy, and Brentwood Academy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gentry was also the esteemed owner of Gentry Farm on New Highway 96 West in Franklin; for many years, the farm was a popular destination for countless families and students from schools throughout Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Gentry is survived by his sons, Allen (Cindy) Gentry and Scott (Melanie) Gentry; his beloved friend, Barbara Hendrix; his grandchildren, Jase Gentry, Mary Morgan Gentry (Charles Hatcher), Hope Gentry (Hunter) Miller, Laura Gentry (David) Defatta, and John (Megan) Gentry; and his great-grandchildren, Mary Bennett Defatta, Ady Defatta, Henley Gentry, River Gentry, Fisher Gentry, Josie Miller, and Cannon Hatcher; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Zebulon and Gertrude Gentry; his wife, Rebecca Channell Gentry; and his son, James Cannon Gentry, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gentry leaves behind an enduring 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 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 Jimmy Gentry, 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. Gentry.

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.