

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1864

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton of Bristol.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton, a gentleman who gave back to his community not only in monetary ways but also as a mentor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gatton grew up in Bremen, Kentucky, on his family's farm, where he learned many important life lessons; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gatton was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he majored in business administration and economics, and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton Graduate School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in finance and banking; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, earning the rank of Second Lieutenant, and completed his two years of active duty in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gatton established his first automobile dealership in Owensboro, Kentucky, in 1959 but sold that business in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gatton moved to Bristol in 1967 after purchasing the Chevrolet and Cadillac franchises there; he made his home in Upper East Tennessee for the rest of his life, but his heart never left Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful entrepreneur, he had owned automobile dealerships in the Tennessee cities of Bristol, Johnson City, Kingsport, Nashville, and Clarksville and also Lexington, Kentucky, Huntsville, Alabama, and Austin and San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the automobile business, Mr. Gatton also loved the real estate and banking industries; and

WHEREAS, a strong believer in education, Mr. Gatton generously supported East Tennessee State University, and its College of Pharmacy is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gatton epitomized the values expressed in a statement made by Senator Howard Baker: "There is a time for learning, a time for earning, and a time for returning or giving back"; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Leigh Gatton, and daughter, Chase Gatton; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gatton 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 we should remember this exceptional 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 Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton, reflecting fondly upon his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to his community.

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.