

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7099

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Roy Herron.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague Roy Herron of Dresden, a member of the 95<sup>th</sup> through 107<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Roy Herron was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, a sixth-generation Tennessean, Roy Brasfield Herron graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin and, in 1980, became one of the first two students to earn joint law and divinity degrees from Vanderbilt University; he later served as an adjunct faculty member at both of his alma maters; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman with immeasurable zeal for life, Senator Herron was a highly regarded attorney in Dresden with clients from throughout the State, the author of four books, a deacon in the United Methodist Church, and an avid athlete who completed more than forty marathons and ultra-marathons, as well as eleven Ironman triathlons; and

WHEREAS, Roy Herron was first elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1986; he served the people of the 76<sup>th</sup> House District well during the 95<sup>th</sup> through 99<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies, thereafter serving as a member of the Senate representing the 24<sup>th</sup> Senate District during the 100<sup>th</sup> through 107<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, throughout his twenty-six years as a State legislator, Senator Herron was devoted to issues regarding health care, public education, and victims' rights; in addition to fighting to make health care available to all Tennesseans, he helped pass laws banning

smoking in public places and sought to protect children, the working people of Tennessee, and those who were disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, he also held more than 1,000 listening meetings for the public and missed only one day of session during his more than one-quarter-century tenure—the day his youngest son was born; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader among his peers, Senator Herron served as Senate floor leader and caucus chair for the Democrats; in 2010, he was the Democratic nominee for U.S. Congress (8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District), and he chaired the Democratic Party from 2013 to 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, Roy Herron will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by those who knew and loved him, chief among them his wife of thirty-six years, Reverend Nancy Carol Miller-Herron; his sons, Rick Herron, John Herron, and Ben Herron; his brother, Ben Herron; his nephews, Richard Herron, Jim Herron, Will (Melissa) Kinton, and Sean Dugan; his niece, Erin Dugan; his sisters-in-law, Diane Herron and Jan (Dennis) Dugan; his great-nieces, Taylor Rose, Shelby (Jess), and Lindsey (Mitul); and his great-nephew, Zeb; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his cousins, Martha (Jim), Carolyn, Nancy (Gene), Jim (Allison), Thom, Betsy, Emily (Danny), Zadie, Catherine (Margaret), Ross, James (Allie), Jacob, Ben (Liz), Cameron, Sean, Neil, and Lana; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Grooms and Mary Cornelia Herron, he was preceded in death by his sister, Betsye Herron Hickman, and his brother, Dean Herron; and

WHEREAS, Senator Herron 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 the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Senator Roy Herron, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend 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 Senator Herron.

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.