

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8001 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Preacher James R. "Jim" Potter.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Preacher James R. "Jim" Potter; and

WHEREAS, Preacher Jim Potter 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, born on August 3, 1937, Jim Potter was the son of Joseph Ray Potter and Cordia Rector Potter; and

WHEREAS, Jim Potter proudly served his nation as a member of the United States Army from January 14, 1955, to October 27, 1957; during his term of service, he was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before completing his military service at the Royal Air Force Greenham Common U.S. Air Force Station and Army Barracks in Berkshire, England, during the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Huntsville High School in 1960, Preacher Potter pursued employment and business opportunities of his own choosing; whether serving as a building contractor, in a concrete plant or coal mine, or in underground deep-mining, he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to serving the needs of his community, Jim Potter served as an election commissioner for a total of nearly thirty years; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from Caryville Limestone, Preacher Jim Potter embarked upon his "Cross Ministry," an endeavor that led to his becoming well-known for constructing and installing towering crosses in states throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jim Potter became an ordained minister in 1990 and devoted the rest of his life to performing ministry work for his Lord; he felt blessed to travel to Israel as well as many states to share the Word of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Preacher Jim Potter was an active and devout member of White Rock Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Preacher Potter was preceded in death by his sisters, Clea (Joe) Rayburn and Ruie (Darius) Smith, and his brothers, Sam (Clea) Potter, Opal (Doris) Lay, and James Donald Lay; and

WHEREAS, Jim Potter is survived by his wife, Colvina Potter; mother of his children, Margaret Potter; and his children, James R. (Doris) Potter, Jr., Dennis J. (Kelly) Potter, and Michael R. (Leecia A.) Potter; twelve grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his twin brother, George William Potter; special niece, Paula Bridges; and a host of cousins, family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Preacher Jim Potter 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Preacher James R. "Jim" Potter, 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 Preacher Potter.

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.