

SENATE RESOLUTION 1

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Hayden “Aden” Hendley.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Hayden “Aden” Hendley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley 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 May 28, 1926, near Clementsville, John Hendley was the youngest child of four, and the third son of Willis Aden Hendley of Putnam County and Mary Daisy Landcaster of Monroe County, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the last descendant to carry the “Aden” name from his great-grandfather, Adin S. Hendley, John Hendley’s rich heritage is filled with historically-significant ancestors; one of his great-grandfathers was a tailor who skillfully crafted uniforms for the Confederate Army; his great-grandfather’s brothers, John, Nimrod, and William served in the eighth Tennessee Calvary, CSA, which was commanded by Colonel Mounce L. Gore, the great, great-grandfather of former Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.; his great-grandfather’s brother, Capel Hendley, served in the first Mounted Tennessee Infantry, USA and was guarding the supply line at Carthage during the advancement of Union forces onto Knoxville; and his great-grandfather, Adin, served as a substitute in the Kentucky Militia unit known as the Green River Battalion; and

WHEREAS, John Hendley attended elementary schools in Chipman and Beech Grove, but after his parents went on to their great reward, he went to live with his Uncle William Bird Hendley near Bowling Green, Kentucky, and became the fifty-fourth member of the United Methodist Church of Bowling Green; and

WHEREAS, exempt from military service during World War II, Mr. Hendley did everything he could to support the war effort, including toiling through long, hard days of planting and harvesting war crops; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, John Hendley met the love of his life, Opal Mae McWhorter, and the loving couple were joined in holy matrimony on July 17, 1950, at the Christian Parsonage in Traflagar, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, this blessed union produced five precious children, and Mr. Hendley selflessly dedicated himself to the job of raising them with the utmost character, love, and moral integrity, serving as a valued member of the Parent-Teacher Association and supporting his children in all of their extracurricular activities, including Boy Scouts of America, Sunday School plays, and Vacation Bible School; and

WHEREAS, John Hendley served with acumen and alacrity as a machine operator at Arvin Industries, Franklin, Indiana, plant, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a voice for justice and dignity for working people in America, Mr. Hendley was a Charter Member of the Plant's Local Union 2993, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL-CIO, and, in December 2009, he was granted a Lifetime Membership Gold Card at Local Union 1155 in Columbus, Indiana, after fifty years of continuous membership; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader who understood and appreciated the importance of preserving our rich history, John Hendley and his wife were avid supporters of the Tennessee Monument Commission, Inc.; these public-spirited citizens were instrumental in placing a memorial in honor of our Tennessee soldiers at Gettysburg and also promoted local, historical projects, including erecting a historical marker at the old Anita Railroad Station; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 1998, he the attained noble position of Clan Elder for the Francis Marion Hendley Clan branch of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., the third of his family to attain this distinction; then, on July 28, 2003, John Hendley ascended to the highest honored position of National Chief Elder of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., and became the Honorary Chairman of the Association's Commission, which placed a historical marker at

the Smellage Cemetery of Putnam County, the site of the founding of the “Great Hendley Family of Tennessee”; and

WHEREAS, dearly loved by everyone who met him, Mr. Hendley was especially popular with the downtown merchants of Franklin, Indiana, who warmly referred to him as “Honest John,” “Jack,” after President John F. Kennedy, “Maverick,” after James Garner's western series, and “The Duke,” after actor John Wayne; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, John Hendley was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Paul E. Patton and a Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill by Governor Don Sundquist, and several governors and legislatures have praised his community service and celebrated his many noteworthy achievements; and

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

WHEREAS, John Hendley was preceded in death by his beloved wife; his parents; his two brothers, Wilbur J. and George Hendley; his sister, Jewell K. Medley; and his great-grand daughter, Anna Bernice Mae Hendley; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud father and father-in-law of William Haydon and Julie Hendley, Freddie Allan and Kathy Hendley, Patricia Ann Hendley, Shelia K. and Patrick O’Steen, and Sharon Elizabeth Hagan; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his seven grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and a host of friends, family, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley 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 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 SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of John Hayden “Aden” Hendley, 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. Hendley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.