

SENATE RESOLUTION 317

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to commend Sheriff Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., is one such admirable person, who epitomized the highest ideals of public service and contributed greatly to the safety of the citizens of Hardeman County as Hardeman County Sheriff, while evidencing the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the first African-American sheriff elected in the State of Tennessee, Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., was born in Ashland, Mississippi, to Delphus V. and Gladys Hicks; and

WHEREAS, he attended school in Benton County, Mississippi, and graduated from Old Salem High School in Ashland, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hicks honorably served his nation as a member of the U.S. Army, during which time he was stationed in North Carolina, Texas, and Korea; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., embarked upon his career in law enforcement as a deputy in the Hardeman County Sheriff's Department in Grand Junction; shortly after becoming a deputy, he was promoted to chief deputy; and

WHEREAS, in September 1978, Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., was elected Sheriff of Hardeman County, thereby becoming the first African-American sheriff elected in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hicks served as Sheriff of Hardeman County for four consecutive terms from 1978 to 1994; during his exemplary tenure, the Hardeman County Jail was certified for the first time through Tennessee Corrections Institute; and

WHEREAS, Delphus Hicks, Jr., continued his record of public service by serving as a State Investigator for the Department of Mental Health, as a senior corrections officer for Corrections Corporation of America, and as interim police chief for the City of Whiteville; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he was once again elected to serve as Hardeman County Sheriff and was reelected in 2006; Sheriff Hicks worked hard to ensure that integrity was maintained within the department and fiscal responsibility was continually exercised; under his astute leadership, the Hardeman County Criminal Justice Complex was constructed; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hicks continued his professional training in the area of law enforcement by attending Tennessee Sheriff Association School, United States Marshall Service Jail Operations Seminar, Medical Examiner Seminar, Drug-Free Tennessee Seminar, and West Tennessee Criminal Investigation Organization; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure as sheriff, Delphus Hicks, Jr., served as vice president of the Tennessee Sheriff's Association and established many firsts within the Hardeman County Sheriff's Department, including the formation of a litter pick-up program, the placing of a school resource officer at Middleton High School, the assignment of a full-time court officer to the courts, the organization of an investigative unit within the Sheriff's Department, and the implementation of neighborhood watch organizations throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Sheriff Hicks is a recipient of the prestigious Tennessee Outstanding Sheriff of the Year Award, the Tennessee Outstanding Achievement Award, the 2003 Emancipation Award, the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators Chairperson Award, and the Outstanding Achievement Award Bu Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; he was also made an honorary member of the Lieutenant Governor's staff; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated member of his profession, Sheriff Hicks served as a member of the 25th Judicial Drug Task Force, Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, Governor's Alliance for a Drug-Free Tennessee, Tennessee Sheriff's Association, and Hardeman County Law Enforcement Board; and

WHEREAS, Delphus Hicks, Jr., is currently a member of the NAACP, the Hardeman County Community Health Center Board of Directors, the Corrections Management Board of Directors, as well as a longtime member of Aluzza Temple #169; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Hicks took a much-deserved retirement from public service in 2010 and has since enjoyed spending time with his family and friends; he also enjoys a number of hobbies, such as grass cutting, simple construction, and gardening; and

WHEREAS, Delphus Hicks, Jr., enjoyed the love and companionship he shared with his beloved wife, Frankie, before her passing; he is the proud father of two children, James and Diane, and the loving grandfather and great-grandfather of three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Sheriff Hicks carried out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Sheriff Delphus Hicks, Jr., for his dedication to law enforcement and the citizens of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend Sheriff Delphus V. Hicks, Jr., for his meritorious service to the citizens of Hardeman County and the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

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