

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION honoring the memory of Charles Gaylon  
Turnage of Bells.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Gaylon Turnage; and

WHEREAS, Gaylon Turnage 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, he served with acumen in positions of business and political leadership in Crockett County and West Tennessee, and he leaves behind a significant legacy as a prominent leader in his community; and

WHEREAS, Gaylon Turnage, born in Maury City on January 15, 1935, was the son of Cecil Garland Turnage and Faye Evelyn Gibbons Turnage; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious life, Mr. Turnage purposefully ascribed to a belief in the power of hard work and perseverance. In 1955, he opened Turnage Auto Salvage, which remained in business for forty-two years; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, he founded the Jackson Drag Way; four years later, in 1982, he opened Jackson Auto Salvage, and he served as president of both the Great Memphis Salvage Dealers Association and the Tennessee Salvage Dealers Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turnage was a devoted member of the Maury City, Bells, and Alamo Lions Clubs, the Bells Jaycees, and the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce. He was also an avid Rotarian and served as the Alamo Rotary Club president in 1983, during which time he initiated charter changes to open membership to the entire county; and

WHEREAS, with a passion for politics, Gaylon Turnage was elected county commissioner in 2002 and continued serving in that position until the time of his death. He also

led Governor Ray Blanton's and President Jimmy Carter's bids for office on the Crockett County front in earlier years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turnage was an active and devout member of Bells United Methodist Church, where he served and worshipped faithfully for many years. In his later years, Alamo First United Methodist was his home church; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Debra Haynes Turnage, and was the proud parent of Barry Turnage, Ronnie "Pete" Turnage, Randy Turnage, Chris Turnage, Gaylynn Turnage Lynch, Charles Turnage, and stepdaughter Dawn East Ing; and

WHEREAS, the progeny of Gaylon Turnage includes seven grandchildren, Casey Ward, Tristan Turnage Krenek, Nicholas Turnage, Avery Turnage, Connor Lynch, Brandon Lynch, and Allie Ing; and four great-grandchildren, Brinley Krenek, Kipton Krenek, Jamison Turnage, and Steely Ward; and

WHEREAS, Gaylon Turnage 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles Gaylon Turnage, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and absolute dedication to living the examined life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest sympathies and send our most sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Turnage.

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