

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 346

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Reverend Carl Lawson White of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of the Reverend Carl Lawson White; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend White 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, the Reverend Carl White served with acumen as the pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church for sixty-three years, and he preached his last sermon from that pulpit on March 8, 2015, eight days prior to his passing. Hillcrest was the only church the pastor ever served, and he was the only pastor Hillcrest ever called to lead them; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend White preached the Gospel with fervor and devotion, faithfully counseling and comforting his congregants and others in need. He was a true servant-leader and guided his congregation in many mission activities that contributed to Kingdom building here on Earth; and

WHEREAS, Carl White spent sixty-three years mentoring families in spiritual, moral, relational, and character-based ways to live life, and he mentored many of these families into their fourth generations. He is known to have performed more than 5,000 funeral services and wedding ceremonies combined; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Reverend White was honored by the Tennessee Southern Baptist Convention as the oldest active pastor in the State, and he was honored for his ministry in support of Miracle Lake Prison Rehab Center and Hope for Today Cancer Survival Group; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his congregation for his longtime mission called "The Horse." Upon his grandmother's passing, the Reverend White moved her horse-like coin bank to the front of the sanctuary, where he implored children to regularly and generously deposit coins in "The Horse," just as his grandmother had done for many years. Then, as she had done, the proceeds were used to purchase and distribute Bibles around the world; the Reverend White's church children have contributed more than \$165,000, the greater balance of which has been in coinage; and

WHEREAS, Carl White earned his living and supported his family for forty-five years as an employee with Alcoa Aluminum, and for twenty of those years, he served on the board of directors of Alcoa Credit Union; and

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

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Bethel and Meletta White, by his wife of seventy years, Gladys White, and by four siblings and one grandson; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by two sons and their spouses, Randy and Pat White and Chris and Kimberly White, and two daughters and their spouses, Linda and Johnny Bryant and Vicki and David Hickman; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend White will be sorely missed by his eleven grandchildren, Cindy, Traci, Scott, Jeff, Lisa, Ginger, Jordan, Jacob, Shane, Todd, and Nikki, and his fourteen great-grandchildren, Chase, Lee, Evan, Taylor, Jake, Marley, Alex, Cory, Kaci, Carson, Italia, Logan, Maci, and Alexa, who will be joined soon by Landyn Kate; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Carl White 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the Reverend Carl Lawson White, 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 the Reverend White.

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