

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 239

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of District Public Defender B. Campbell Smoot Jr. of the 14th Judicial District.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden passing in November 2014 of B. Campbell Smoot Jr., who had won reelection as the District Public Defender for the 14th Judicial District for his fourth term three months before his death; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Tullahoma community, B. Campbell Smoot was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens and clients in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS Mr. Smoot was born in Memphis in 1936; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smoot served in the United States Army, 11th Airborne Division, between 1955 and 1958, and the Tennessee National Guard between 1958 and 1960; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smoot earned his bachelor of science degree in forestry from Auburn University in 1963, earned his master's degree in wood tech there in 1965, and was an instructor in the university's Department of Forestry during 1964 and 1965. He obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1972; worked as an assistant district attorney general from 1973 to 1974; and engaged in the private practice of law from 1973 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, B. Campbell Smoot was appointed by the Governor in 1989 to serve the citizens of the 14th Judicial District as district public defender, and he did so with great distinction. In 1990, he was elected to serve an eight-year term, and in 1998, 2006, and 2014, Mr. Smoot was reelected by the citizens to continue serving as the district public defender for the 14th Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, B. Campbell Smoot Jr. was twice elected to serve as the president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer, and as a member of the executive committee of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, as well as serving on other notable committees of the conference; and

WHEREAS, B. Campbell Smoot served on the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors and was a member of the Coffee County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smoot had been a licensed surveyor since 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smoot was a Christian and a member of the Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smoot was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Judy, and the relationship he shared with his children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, B. Campbell Smoot Jr. demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of B. Campbell Smoot Jr., 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. Smoot.

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