

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 281

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joe Hurst Walker, former District Public Defender of the 9th Judicial District.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Joe Hurst Walker in July of 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker was a longtime resident and highly respected member of the Harriman community, and 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, born on June 23, 1944, to Myrtle and Ben Walker, who preceded him in death, Joe Walker was a proud native of Harriman and Roane County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1969, after which he served in private practice and as the county attorney for almost six years; and

WHEREAS, Joe Walker also served with valor and resolution as a member of the Air National Guard and dedicated his time and energies as a county attorney, a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1977, and a county delinquent tax attorney for almost ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, he was appointed to serve the citizens of Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane counties as the District Public Defender of the 9th Judicial District. He gained election to the post in 1990 and reelection in 1998 and again in 2006, and rendered sterling service in the position until his death; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his outstanding career in law, Mr. Walker was an entrepreneur and a highly respected member of his community. He was actively involved in numerous

businesses, including Walker Automotive, Harriman News and Views, Harriman Heating and Electric, and Harriman Stone; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers, Joe Walker served with distinction as chairman of the board of the Roane Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, though he was involved in a car accident in 1991, one that left him a quadriplegic, Mr. Walker took part in a number of active pursuits, including basketball, softball, volleyball, karate, off-roading, and waterskiing; and

WHEREAS, Joe Walker was a devout member of the Harriman United Methodist Church, and committed his time and energies in membership to the Harriman Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, he was most grateful for the love and support he shared with his two sons, his daughter, his daughters-in-law, and his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Joe Hurst Walker demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench, and his community alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker 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 our friend and former colleague; 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 Joe Hurst Walker, 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. Walker.

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