

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 392

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William H. Swain of
Scott County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William H. "Bill" Swain of Scott County; and

WHEREAS, a skillful and accomplished businessman, banker, and philanthropist, William Swain 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, born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Swain moved to Scott County in 1942, at the age of nineteen, to operate Swain Lumber Mills under a temporary assignment that ultimately became a lifetime commitment; and

WHEREAS, William Swain enrolled in the accounting program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville while working at the lumber mill, traveling from Scott County to Knoxville over muddy, rutted roads; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. Swain was elected president of the First National Bank of Oneida, where he would serve as president and chief executive officer and/or chairman or senior chairman of the board until his death; and

WHEREAS, an astute financial expert, William Swain earned degrees from the Louisiana State University School of Banking and the prestigious Advanced Management Program at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers, Mr. Swain served as a director of the Federal Reserve Banks in Nashville and Atlanta. He was a director of the Tennessee Bankers Association for eight years, serving as president in 1982 and 1983, and was inducted into the Tennessee Bankers Association's illustrious Leaders in Banking Excellence in 2007; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Swain helped establish Scott County's first hospital, where he served on the original board of directors for twenty-two years, and aided in the creation of the Scott County Rescue Squad in 1963. He joined with Howard H. Baker Jr. to lead the effort to create the Highland Telephone Cooperative and was its first president, serving from 1953 until 1961; and

WHEREAS, William Swain was the co-founder and first president of the Huntsville Utility District and a two-time chairman of the Industrial Development Board of the Scott County Chamber of Commerce, serving as a director and president of both groups; and

WHEREAS, a proud alumnus of the University of Tennessee and member of the President's Council at the time of his death, William Swain rendered sterling service to his alma mater in numerous capacities, including tenures on the University of Tennessee Development Council, the Board of Governors of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, and the Athletic Board; membership on the Chancellor's Search Committee in 1974; and as general vice-chair of Partners for Achievement and national co-chair of Tennessee Tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, a champion for education, Mr. Swain was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Lamar Alexander and served from 1984 to 1993. He also played a key role in the establishment of a satellite campus of Roane State Community College in Scott County in 1993. His donation of thirty-eight acres of land and exceptional fundraising skills permitted the institution to expand four times since opening; and

WHEREAS, his efforts in Scott County included the establishment of an annual grant program to support educators' innovative ideas for improved teaching that now supplies \$50,000 each year to Scott County teachers, and his patronage of what is now the Scott County Museum at Scott County High School, the only museum of its kind in America, which is created by students under the direction of their teachers; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his support of education, Mr. Swain was named to the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee Hall of Fame and the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, William Swain evinced his abiding faith as a member of the Catholic Church, giving generously of his time and abundant talents to many charitable causes, including Catholic Social Services in Knoxville, the Catholic Charities Board in Nashville, the Diocesan Financial Council, the Associated Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, and St. Mary's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the opening of St. Jude's Church in Helenwood, Mr. Swain received a Papal Honor from Pope Benedict XVI, the Benemerenti Medal (excellent merit), in 2006, the first ever granted to the East Tennessee Diocese; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swain was preceded in death by his parents, John and Helen Swain; stepmother, Ruth Swain; first wife, Martha Lay Swain; daughter, Nancy E. Watters; granddaughter, Lauren Elizabeth Swain; and his brother and two sisters; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, William Swain enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Tomilee Manis Swain; his children, Michael B. (Marsha) Swain, Marianne (Gary) Gallagher, Kathleen (Jaimie) Cameron, Martha (Joe) Wallen, Timothy (Deborah) Swain; and his stepchildren, Greg (Tina) Jeffers and Traci L. Lowe; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his grandchildren, Todd (Patty) Swain, Jordan Swain, Grant (Whitney) Swain, Michael Gallagher, Kathleen Gallagher, Erin (Jakob) Silker, Kelly Cameron, Colleen Cameron, Hallie Wallen, Marianne Wallen (Arron) Nichols, Jessica (Jeremy) Davenport, Ashley (Jon) Lane, Marcy (Johnny) Boyatt, Kacie Watters, Christen (Matthew) Bonn, Mitchell Swain and fiancée, Jessica Kasemeyer, Jessica (Chuck) Jeffers, Charlsie (Randy) Miller, Caleb Jeffers, Jacob Jeffers, Savanna (Cody) Yancey, Kayla Lowe, and Kristin Shrader; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Swain also leaves behind nineteen great-grandchildren and was looking forward to the birth of three more this year, which would make a total of twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, William Swain 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 remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; 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 William H. Swain, 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 William H. Swain.

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