

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert I. Blue Sr. of Dickson.

WHEREAS, the members of this body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert I. Blue Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue 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, a longtime resident of Dickson, Robert Blue was a highly respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, a trailblazer of public service, Mr. Blue became the first African American to hold office in Dickson County when he was elected to serve as an alderman representing the city's Fourth Ward in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Robert Blue served an uninterrupted term as an alderman for the next twenty years under mayors W.A. Crosby, Slayden Weaver, J. Dan Buckner, and Tom Waychoff. After narrowly losing the 1989 election, Mr. Blue was reelected to the council in 1991, serving until 2007 under mayors Waychoff and Don Weiss Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in his thirty-six years of service as an alderman, Mr. Blue served the needs of his constituents with aplomb, acumen, and alacrity, and his experience and expertise were highly valued; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, Mr. Blue was instrumental in the implementation of a number of significant improvements to Dickson, including the improvement of infrastructure and roads, improved housing for the people living in the Fourth Ward, and the 1973 transition from the Town of Dickson into the City of Dickson; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service to the Dickson City Council, Robert Blue Sr. also worked as an employee at the former Central Glass America Inc.'s Ford plant, now named Carlex Glass Company LLC, in Nashville. Prior to his retirement, he worked for thirty-nine years as a shop steward and a committeeman for the United Auto Workers Local 737; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Blue was recognized by the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum as a Civil Rights Trailblazer and was chosen as a grand marshal of the 2014 Old Timers Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the St. James AME Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Robert Blue 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 of fifty-three years, Laura Dell Blue, and was the proud father of Robert "Ben" Overton, Russell Overton, Randy Blue, Lori Tyson, Robert Blue Jr., the late George Eugene Overton, and the late Bettina Ann Overton; and

WHEREAS, Robert Blue Sr. will also be sorely missed by his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his great-great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue 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 body 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 Robert I. Blue Sr., 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. Blue.

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