

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 129

By Hemmer

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Avi Poster of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Avi Poster; and

WHEREAS, a fervent activist for social justice and Jewish community leader, Avi Poster devoted himself to compassionately serving his neighbors and friends for many years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Poster was born into a family committed to social and civil justice; after retiring from an illustrious thirty-four-year career as a public school administrator and national educational consultant, he moved to Nashville in 2001 with his wife, Joie Scott-Poster, who is an acclaimed songwriter; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, Avi Poster was renowned for his focus and interest in middle school best practices, social-emotional learning, and organizational culture; three of the schools he served as principal were awarded the prestigious U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award by three different sitting presidents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poster's community service in Nashville was centered on advancing public school education; a visionary educator, enlightened leader, and impassioned advocate, he served four terms as chair of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Citizens' Panel for a Community Report Card, six years as a member of the Charter School Review Committee, five years as chair of the Metro Nashville Public Schools Family Advisory Council for Special Education, and five years as co-chair of the Middle School Transformation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Avi Poster persistently called for action to elevate the dignity of Nashvillians and condemned hateful speech and action toward people of color and minority faith groups; among the many organizations he served were A Voice, Rochelle Center, Nashville Human Rights Commission, Coalition for Education about Immigration, Clergy for Tolerance, Nashville Poverty Reduction Council, Nashville Poverty Advocacy Council, Nashville Jewish

Federation/Community Relations Committee, Community Nashville, Nashville for All of Us, Tennessee for All of Us, W.O. Smith School of Music, Circle of Friends/Father of Abraham, Tennesseans Against Genocide, Nashville Chapter of Jim Crow, and Tennessee Arthritis Advisory Board, and he was the longest serving board member of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poster was a member of Congregation Micah, a Reform Jewish synagogue, but had relationships with other synagogues and rabbis in the community, serving with and leading several Jewish community groups, as well as other groups advocating for dialogue between local Jews, Christians, and Muslims; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary commitment to his community, he continued to be professionally engaged as an educational consultant, serving as president of Chi-Cuz Music Publishing and principal partner in Edu-Characters, a multimedia company that develops character education programs and commercial educational vehicles, including movies, television, and books; and

WHEREAS, although he never sought accolades, Avi Poster received the Welcoming Tennessee Award from the Tennessee Immigrant Refugee Rights Coalition in 2012, and The Islamic Center of Nashville honored him with its Beyond Borders Award at the mosque's annual diversity brunch in 2018; and

WHEREAS, a true humanitarian, Mr. Poster leaves behind an enduring 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 we should 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Avi Poster, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable

character, his distinguished service to his community, 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. Poster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.