

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 135

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Sam E. Boaz of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge Sam E. Boaz; and

WHEREAS, Judge Boaz 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, prior to his retirement, he served with acumen and alacrity as a judge of the Law and Equity Court and the Criminal Court of Montgomery County for sixteen years. His long and storied career on the bench earned the respect of his fellow jurists and attorneys; and

WHEREAS, born in McKenzie, Tennessee, to John James David Boaz and Clyde McCracken Boaz, Sam Boaz graduated from Bethel College and the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, after practicing law first in Knoxville, Judge Boaz joined the legal department of the Aluminum Company of America at Alcoa before gaining appointment to serve as vice counsel in the United States Foreign Service in 1944; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Foreign Service, the Honorable Sam Boaz served in the American Consulate in Birmingham, England and the American Embassy in London. He retired from diplomatic service in 1946, returning to Nashville to once again practice law; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Judge Boaz joined the practice of William Daniel and, soon thereafter, joined the practice of Senator Austin Peay. In 1958, he was joined by William O. Beach, and together they opened the firm of Boaz and Beach; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civil servant, the Honorable Sam Boaz was elected by the good people of Montgomery and Cheatham Counties to serve as their voice in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1963, and gained reelection in 1965; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the practice of law continued even after his retirement from the Law and Equity Court and the Criminal Court of Montgomery County, as evidenced by his service as a judge of the Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply involved in many civic and community organizations, serving as the president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, president of his local bar association, vice president of the Tennessee Bar Association, a member of the American Bar Association, as chairman of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Library Board, and the secretary of the Museum Board; and

WHEREAS, possessed of a lifelong interest in history, Judge Boaz acquired the property on which the Civil War Fort Defiance had stood, purchasing the land in New Providence in 1952. Understanding the significance of the site and believing this historical monument should belong to the public, Judge Boaz deeded the property to the City of Clarksville in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Sam Boaz was an active and devout member of the Madison Street United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, prior to her passing in 1984, Judge Boaz enjoyed the loving companionship of his first wife, Broecksie Cummings Boaz. In 1990, he married Margery "Dee" Wienand Bryant, who survives him; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his stepchildren, Paul William Bryant and Kellie Bryant Smith; his step-grandchildren, Hailey N. Bryant, John Paul W. Bryant, Samantha D. Bryant, Richard L. Smith, and Liam J. Smith; and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sam Boaz 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 General Assembly 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the Honorable Sam E. Boaz, 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 Judge Boaz.

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