

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 206

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ray Michael Collins of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Ray Michael "Mike" Collins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins was an exemplary educator and consummate attorney who devoted his career to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mike Collins served with distinction for many years as an instructor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Mr. Collins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1976, his Juris Doctor in 1979, and his Master's degree in Public Administration in 1981, all from Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, before joining the faculty at the University of Memphis, Mike Collins had already amassed an impressive teaching resume. He expertly taught Criminal Justice at Christian Brothers University; Paralegal Studies, Court Reporting, Hospitality Management, and Criminal Justice at Southwest Tennessee Community College; and Political Science at Shelby State Community College; and

WHEREAS, this dearly beloved instructor not only enlightened generations of students on the intricacies of the American system of government and Constitutional Law, but also was a true friend and mentor, providing his students with a wealth of solid, practical counsel; and

WHEREAS, always eager to enhance the students' educational opportunities, Mr. Collins served with acumen and alacrity as the library coordinator for the Department of Political Science and coordinator of the University Legislative Internship Program; and

WHEREAS, his work as the Mock Trial Team's coordinator and coach was a masterful combination of classroom teaching, coaching, and personal development that prepared his students for their future careers in law, business, and other professional endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the insights into the American legal system that he gave in the classroom are rivaled only by the real-world example he set as a dedicated attorney; Mike Collins worked assiduously as an attorney for West Tennessee Legal Services and an attorney and Assistant Director for the Housing Opportunities Corporation, specializing in civil rights, housing, and administrative issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins also lent his legal expertise as a consultant for several influential institutions, including the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia; the Equal Housing Opportunities Council in Saint Louis, Missouri; the Fair Housing Council of Greater Los Angeles; and the City of Dallas's Office of Fair Housing and Employment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins received numerous awards and recognitions in honor of his outstanding teaching talents and commendable public service, including *Who's Who in American Law* and *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins 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 SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ray Michael Collins, 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. Collins.

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