

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 268

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dennis A. Wolford of Macon County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dennis A. Wolford of Macon County; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Wolford 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, Mr. Wolford served with acumen and alacrity as the chief executive officer and administrator of the Macon County General Hospital, in which position he served for thirty-two years, and he earned the respect of his peers and staff alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he also served as the chief spokesman for the hospital; and

WHEREAS, born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on August 8, 1946, Dennis Wolford was the son of Donald and Madalyn Howell Wolford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolford received a Bachelor of Science degree from Tusculum College, and, following his graduation, he began working for the United States Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service with Macon County, Mr. Wolford served as an assistant administrator for Byron Healthcare at the McCray Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, he was an administrator of the McCray Memorial Hospital in Kendallville, Indiana, in which position he organized the first countywide emergency medical services in the state at the time; and

WHEREAS, with fourteen years of hospital administration experience, Mr. Wolford accepted a position with the Macon County General Hospital and made Macon County his

forever home in 1984, and on June 19, 1986, he exchanged vows in the courtyard at the hospital with Margaret, his beloved wife of nearly thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Wolford was wholly supportive of the community's healthcare needs, and he served on statewide boards to voice the concerns and needs of rural hospitals; under his leadership, the community saw significant improvements in accessibility and services available to the people of Macon and surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, a devoted leader in his community, Mr. Wolford was an active member of several organizations and boards, including the Lafayette Rotary Club, the Macon County Chamber of Commerce, the Macon County Senior Citizens Center, the Macon County Health Council, HOPE Family Health Services, the Macon County Planning Commission, the Industrial Development Board of Macon County, the Makin' Macon Fit Family Fitness Festival, and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology of Hartsville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolford served the State of Tennessee as a member of the Tennessee Hospital Association, which he served as a member of the board of directors and the Council on Clinical and Professional Practices; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Wolford received several awards throughout his distinguished career, including the Rural Health Association of Tennessee Worker of the Year Award, the AI Grant Award for Distinguished Service, the Tennessee Hospital Association Distinguished Service Award, and the American College of Healthcare Executive Regents Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolford was also a published author, whose works have appeared in the *Journal of the American Hospital Association*; and

WHEREAS, aside from his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Wolford was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolford will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by his cherished wife, Margaret; a son, Jack (Debbie) Wolford; a grandson, Thomas Wolford; his

granddaughters, Olivia Wolford and Kayla (Steve) Waby; a brother, Donnie (Linda) Wolford; an uncle, Richard (Pam) Howell; his sisters-in-law, Kay Wolford and Linda (Keith) Mitchell; a brother-in-law, Tommy (Debbie) Bearden; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Wolford was preceded in death by a brother, Douglas C. Wolford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolford 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 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dennis A. Wolford, 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. Wolford.

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.