

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 289

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lawson Spires Whitaker III of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lawson Spires Whitaker III; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker 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 native of Chattanooga, Mr. Whitaker graduated from the McCallie School, where he excelled at football and wrestling, and the University of the South, Sewanee, where he was a four-time conference wrestling champion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker served with acumen and alacrity as a photographer, an interest that he discovered after photographing a Grateful Dead concert in 1971; he went on to work for Chattanooga-based Olan Mills as a portrait photographer and also documented the changing Chattanooga architecture after the construction of the aquarium; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was a passionate cyclist, often riding his bicycle through the mountains around Chattanooga to grab better views for his photos, and he once rode from Chattanooga to Toronto to visit his brother; and

WHEREAS, his photography was recognized for its artistry and was exhibited at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, an active constituent of the artistic community, Mr. Whitaker was a member in the local chapter of the Professional Photographers of America; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was a devout member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Grace Anne Whitaker; his sister, Flowerree (Steve) McDonough; his brother, John (Anne) Whitaker; his aunt, Janet Mills Moon; Grace's mother, Betsy Donahue; Grace's sister, Rachel (Nickolas) Sigler; and his nieces and nephews, Litton Whitaker, Kathleen (Hugh) Osteen, John Whitaker, Manker Galetovic, and Thompson Galetovic, as well as many Patten cousins; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his mother, Flowerree Patten Whitaker Oakes, and his father, L. Spires Whitaker, Jr., M.D.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker 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 Lawson Spires Whitaker III, 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. Whitaker.

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.