

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 371

By Fritts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lavana Ruth Sisson Huddleston of Oliver Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lavana Ruth Sisson Huddleston; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Huddleston was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on September 8, 1925, in Windrock, Mrs. Huddleston was the daughter of William David and Beulah White Sisson and a lifelong resident of the Coalfield and Oliver Springs area; and

WHEREAS, when she was only eighteen years old, Ruth Huddleston went to work as a Calutron Girl in Oak Ridge as part of the Manhattan Project during World War II; her work entailed ensuring that the plant's calutrons—a type of equipment important in the processing of uranium used to make the world's first atomic bomb—were operating effectively; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Huddleston went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Master of Arts degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Tennessee; she taught two summers at Knoxville College, in addition to teaching high school and elementary school in Coalfield and one year in Windrock in the mining camp; and

WHEREAS, during her incredible thirty-six-year tenure in education, she served as Beta Club sponsor for thirty years; she also served as guidance counselor at Coalfield High School and Oliver Springs High School; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Ruth Huddleston worked as a leader in Weight Watchers in Harriman and Kingston; she enjoyed writing letters and cards to others, especially her fellow congregants at Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, she was also wholly devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, left to mourn her memory are her children, Lanny (Carla) Huddleston, Lois Huddleston, and Karen (Dean) Mayes; grandchildren, Misty (Neil) Hasty, Sunshine (Curtis) Narramore, Hope (Tyler) Saunders, Katharine (Matt) LeCraw, Loren (Jessica) Huddleston, and Erika Edmonds; and eleven great-grandchildren, including Luke and Belle, who helped take care of her in the final months of her life; and

WHEREAS, she is further survived by her brothers, Harry (Marilyn) Sisson and Perry (Penney) Sisson; sisters-in-law, Earlene Sisson, Susan Borts, and Marcenia Sisson; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and special friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her parents, Mrs. Huddleston was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Huddleston; sister-in-law, Patsy Sisson; and brothers, Ronnie Lynn Sisson, W.D. Sisson, Jr., Warren Sisson, and Wendell Quentin Sisson; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Huddleston leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lavana Ruth Sisson Huddleston, reflecting fondly

upon her impeccable character as a public servant and human being and commending her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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.