

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 480

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Roscoe Dixon, Jr., of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Roscoe Dixon, Jr., of Memphis, who served his fellow citizens as a member of the Tennessee State Senate during the 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, and 104th General Assemblies and as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives during the 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, and 98th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Roscoe Dixon spent decades representing Memphis in the General Assembly and was a strong advocate for the restoration of voting rights; and

WHEREAS, born on September 20, 1949, in Gilmore, Arkansas, Roscoe Dixon, Jr., was the son of Roscoe, Sr., and Virgie Dixon and a graduate of Hamilton High School and Memphis State University, from which he earned a degree in political science; and

WHEREAS, one of seven children, he was raised in the Dixie Heights neighborhood of South Memphis, and at the age of six, he would make speeches to window fans, according to his sister; and

WHEREAS, a proud military veteran, Senator Roscoe Dixon served with the United States Army for two years and the Tennessee Army National Guard for sixteen years, attaining the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, a community leader and businessman, Senator Dixon was the executive director of the Black Business Association and freely gave of his time and talents to various civic, community, and charitable organizations, including the Memphis Health Center, Old Hickory Hill Civic Club, Raineshaven Civic Club, Florida Street Civic Club, Mallory Heights Civic Club, Committee for Economic Growth, Grants Information Center, Area Health Education Center, Associated Catholic Charities, and Whitehaven Southwest Mental Health Center; and

WHEREAS, a champion for the cause of his fellow man, Roscoe Dixon engaged in many efforts to help people achieve equality, fairness, and prosperity, including the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH, NAACP, the Urban League, and the 1974 congressional campaign of Harold Ford, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, continuing to serve his community, Senator Dixon also worked for the Cocaine Alcohol Awareness Program, a residential treatment center for addicts; and

WHEREAS, after offering himself for public service, Roscoe Dixon was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1982 to serve the 87th House District and won election to the State Senate in 1994 to represent the 33rd Senate District; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the State Capitol, Senator Dixon rendered sterling service as chairman of the House General Welfare Committee and as a member of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee, the Senate Education Committee, the Senate Government Operations Committee, the House Commerce Committee, the House Education Committee, the House State and Local Government Committee, the House Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee, and the House Calendar and Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served as the chairman of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Health Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon was deeply devoted to his family, and he enjoyed the loving support and companionship of his beloved wife of thirty-nine years, Gloria Dobbins Dixon, whom he met at a political social gathering and married at St. Peter Baptist Church on August 29, 1981; and

WHEREAS, he will also be mourned but fondly remembered by his stepfather, Willie (Stella) Moore; his mother-in-law, Hazel Dobbins; his sisters, Catherine and Sandra (Craig); his brothers, Ricky (Judy), Bobby, and Danny; his sisters-in-law, Dorothy (Robert), Thelma (Vaughn), and Cheryl; and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, his friend, A.C. Wharton, said that Roscoe Dixon "was just a plain, good man," and Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland tweeted that "he was always gracious and encouraging to me"; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe Dixon leaves behind an indelible legacy of compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Senator Roscoe Dixon, Jr., and reflect fondly upon 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 Senator Dixon

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.