

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 696

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James R. Fitzhugh on the celebration of his ninety-fifth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, James R. Fitzhugh will celebrate his ninety-fifth birthday on January 26, 2018, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in Dyer County, James Fitzhugh played football and basketball at Ripley High School, from which he graduated in 1941; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzhugh attended Memphis State University and The University of Toledo while also serving his country in the United States Army Air Force; he flew the B-25, B-17, and B-29 as a bomber pilot in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzhugh has been employed by the Bank of Ripley since he joined the staff as a part-time clerk in 1945; he served as president from 1975 until 1994, when he became the chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, currently the chairman emeritus of the Bank of Ripley, James Fitzhugh has served as president of the Tennessee Bankers Association and state vice president of the American Bankers Association, and he served on the Tennessee Banking Board under two governors; he was a member of the Memphis branch of the Federal Reserve Board, and he served on the executive council of the Independent Bankers of America and as an original trustee of the Tennessee Bankers Association Group Insurance Trust; and

WHEREAS, following in his father's footsteps, James Fitzhugh served as mayor of Ripley, and he was the charter chair of the Lauderdale County Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzhugh has helped improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens as president of the Ripley Rotary Club and West Tennessee Council president of the Boy Scouts of America; he also served as a trustee of Lambuth University; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Mr. Fitzhugh is a recipient of Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow Award as well as the Silver Beaver Award and the Order of the Arrow from the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, he exhibits his devout religious faith as an active member of First United Methodist Church of Ripley, where he has served in many capacities; and

WHEREAS, James Fitzhugh enjoyed sixty-nine years of marriage with his wife, Frances Craig Fitzhugh, until her passing; he is the proud father of Representative Craig Fitzhugh, the devoted grandfather of Elizabeth Molder (Chaz Molder) and Tom Fitzhugh (Windy Wheeler), and the treasured great-grandfather of Marley Mac Molder, Hugh Molder, BeBe Molder, and Thomas Oliver Fitzhugh; and

WHEREAS, as James Fitzhugh approaches his eleventh decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as his health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate James R. Fitzhugh on the celebration of his ninety-fifth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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