

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 697

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ralph Wesley Mosley of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ralph Wesley Mosley, a gentleman who believed strongly in working hard, doing your best, and giving back to your community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley was an exemplary public servant and consummate businessman who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Henderson, North Carolina, Ralph Mosley was the son of Janie Chamblee Mosley and Henry Timmons Mosley; he grew up in Ahoskie, North Carolina, where, in the fourth grade, he began working with neighboring farmers to help harvest tobacco, cotton, and peanuts; and

WHEREAS, after his family moved into town when he was in the eighth grade, the young Ralph Mosley displayed uncommon initiative by working many jobs over the next few years; he delivered newspapers in the mornings and evenings, held jobs on a bread truck at a meat market, and in a department store, started a lawn-mowing business with a friend, and worked as a service station attendant; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Ahoskie High School in the top three in a graduating class of sixty and went on to attend the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, where he worked part time to pay for his board and ultimately earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business; and

WHEREAS, while hitchhiking to school one fateful day as a freshman, Mr. Mosley was given a ride by a gentleman who informed him of the moneymaking opportunities available at Southwestern Company for a hard-working young person; two weeks later, he was selling books directly to the public; and

WHEREAS, after four summers of selling books, Mr. Mosley graduated from UNC debt-free and with money in his savings account; and

WHEREAS, after college, Ralph Mosley entered Naval Officer Candidate School, graduating as an Ensign, and went on to Air Intercept Controller School and Combat Information Center Training in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley served on the U.S.S. *Searcher*, a radar picket ship, for a year before he was transferred to the U.S.S. *Ogden*, an amphibious transport ship, with which he made four trips to Vietnam to deliver troops and equipment, and he was chosen to fill the navigator's billet two levels above his Lieutenant rank; and

WHEREAS, after serving three years in the Navy, Ralph Mosley returned to Southwestern Company as assistant controller in June 1966; he held various financial and administrative positions at the company before becoming Chairman/CEO in 1982, a position he held until his retirement in 2005; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman/CEO of Southwestern Company, Mr. Mosley earned the respect of his colleagues and employees alike for the exemplary quality of his work, good judgment, fairness, and persistence; and

WHEREAS, under his astute leadership, Southwestern grew from two to twelve divisions while increasing revenues nearly tenfold; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his laudable career, Ralph Mosley volunteered his time as a fundraiser and board member for St. Thomas Hospital, United Way, and YMCA, and he served as Board Chair for the Nashville Symphony and the Tennessee Repertory Theatre for seven years each; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley also volunteered at the Martha O'Bryan Center for over forty years, fundraising, reading to children, and delivering meals; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Mosley and his wife joined Second Presbyterian Church, where he served several terms as deacon and elder and as a member or chair of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, leading all capital campaigns since the church's first in the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley also served on the SunTrust Bank Board of Directors, the T. W. Frierson Contractor, Inc., Board, and the Community Foundation Board, and he was Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency; and

WHEREAS, revered for being generous, nonjudgmental, and optimistic, Ralph Mosley was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Mosley enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Juli Anne Huskey Mosley, with whom he shared more than fifty-five years of marriage before his passing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley is survived by his sons, Wesley Edward Mosley, Lawrence (Larry) Timmons Mosley, and Benjamin Huskey Mosley; his daughters-in-law, Catherine Mosley and Kate Mosley; and his grandchildren, Freeman, Janie Kate, Walker, and Estella; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Ann Ellmore; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Mosley 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 businessman, 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 Ralph Wesley Mosley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and his many contributions to making Nashville an even better place to live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Mosley.

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.