

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 746

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Billy Smith of Hilham.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Billy Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith 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, born in Livingston on August 28, 1962, Mr. Smith was the son of Robert Casto and Virginia Capps Smith and a graduate of Celina High School; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Clay County Sports Hall of Fame, having been inducted as part of the Class of 2014 for his prowess as a member of the Celina High School Bulldogs football team from 1977 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, Billy "Teakettle" Smith was an Associated Press All-State linebacker and running back, who rushed for 1,534 yards and thirteen touchdowns and averaged more than five yards per carry for his career; he added 201 yards and two touchdowns as the Most Valuable Player of the Boyce Smith Bowl his senior year; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, Billy Smith served Clay County for more than twenty years as property assessor, first taking office in 2000 and winning his sixth reelection in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith attended the Livingston First Freewill Baptist Church; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Cheryl Smith; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Carla (Mark) Grace, Billy (Brittany) Smith, Jr., Jason (Star) Bilbrey, and Anthony (Jane) Smith; twelve grandchildren;

one great-grandchild; two sisters, Shirley (Greg) Parton and Gwen (Roy) Gore; and a host of other family and friends; and

WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his parents; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Billy Smith, 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. Smith.

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.