

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 924

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert William Gray, Sr.,  
of Lincoln County.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert William Gray, Sr., of Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray 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, the son of the late James Davis Gray and Hattie Emma Wade Gray, Bob Gray was born on March 12, 1934, in Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray graduated from Central High School in 1952 and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Middle Tennessee State College in 1956, where he participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; after graduation, he was commissioned as an officer into the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray worked on projects for the moon landing with Brown Engineering at Marshall Space Flight Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray later changed careers after earning his master's degree in education administration and began his teaching career at Fayetteville City Schools; he eventually worked his way up to becoming the principal at Highland Rim School, the principal at Eighth District School, and the superintendent of Lincoln County School District; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Gray was highly respected and admired as a leader, but he much preferred to remain humble and simply pass along the wisdom he had acquired throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray was 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 wife of sixty-seven years, Margie Harrison Gray; he was the proud father of Bob (Cathy) Gray, Jr., and Walter (Lori) Gray; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his brother, Davis "Skeebo" Gray, Jr.; grandchildren, Jennifer (David) Flanigan, Rob (Rachel) Gray III, Holley (Adam) Wright, Mary Gray, Brian (Haley) Gray, and Kelly (Nate) Conley; great-grandchildren, Ellie Flanigan, Emmie Flanigan, Will Gray, Samuel Wright, and Nolan Gray; and a host of other extended family and friends; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Big Bob" by his family, Bob Gray is remembered for his personable, compassionate nature and his generosity toward others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gray 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 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert William Gray, Sr., 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. Gray.

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.