

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 925

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Pamela Jane Cooper.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Pamela Jane Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Cooper was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Shelbyville on January 25, 1953, Mrs. Cooper was the daughter of Finis "Bud" and Martha Jane Renegar; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Central High School and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Cooper devoted sixteen years of service to Bedford County Schools as an elementary school teacher, in which capacity she earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and students alike for the superior quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, despite being diagnosed with an autoimmune disease in college, Mrs. Cooper persevered and dedicated many years to her teaching career and parenting; after experiencing liver failure in 1991, she received a donated liver at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, thus saving her life; and

WHEREAS, she believed God needed her talents for another purpose, which was revealed in the fall of 1997 when she answered an altar call to start a crisis pregnancy center in Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 1999, First Choice Pregnancy Counseling Center opened its doors; under Pamela Cooper's leadership, the Center expanded its services and constructed and paid for a ministry facility on Madison Street; and

WHEREAS, she stepped down from her position as executive director in 2009 and subsequently worked exclusively in the client services arena at the Center; and

WHEREAS, a devoted woman of worship, Mrs. Cooper founded a private Christian academy alongside her husband during the COVID-19 pandemic; she supported and counseled her husband and others, and she served the academy as a charter board member. Additionally, she was a first-grade Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church for several years; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Cooper was also deeply devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and she cherished taking care of her family; and

WHEREAS, she will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by her husband of forty-seven years, Barry Don Cooper; her son, Terry Don Cooper; her daughter, Arenda Jane Groves; her brother, Michael (Carla) Renegar; her sisters, Jackie Renegar Tune and Gloria (Keith) Ensey; her grandchildren, Alexandra Jane Downey, David Blake Downey, Delaney Ann Cooper, and Maddox Don Cooper; her brother-in-law, Gary (Terri) Cooper; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her parents, Mrs. Cooper was preceded in death by her grandparents, Milton and Jennie Renegar and Jack and Gladys Snoddy; and

WHEREAS, the epitome of courage and persistence, Pamela Cooper served her faith and community with distinction; she was a devoted friend to those who were blessed to know her, and she leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Pamela Jane Cooper, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Cooper.

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.