

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1026

By Hale

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Elijah Morgan "E.M." Dudney for his honorable and astute service to this State.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes pride in honoring those esteemed individuals who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elijah Morgan Dudney is one such noteworthy person, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. E.M. Dudney was born on November 12, 1929, and was the only child of Mark and Sally Dudney; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Jackson County Central High School as Valedictorian at age sixteen in 1946, he attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute from 1946 to 1949, then entered medical school at the University of Tennessee at Memphis; he obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1952 and entered the civilian internship program in the U.S. Air Force, interning at Nashville General Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dudney next attended the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and qualified as a flight surgeon; assigned to Washington National Airport, he took care of VIP personnel entering and leaving the United States, including the Presidential flight crews; and

WHEREAS, while on active duty in Washington, D.C., Dr. E.M. Dudney served as a White House Aide to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, acting as an escort for social and state functions at the White House; and

WHEREAS, after completing active duty, he began a surgical residency at Baroness Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, serving as chief surgical resident in his final year; in 1959, Dr.

Dudney returned to Gainesboro and began his private practice of medicine and surgery, continuing his military service as a reservist and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Dr. E.M. Dudney took his well-deserved retirement from private practice in 1997; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Dudney was honored by the Tennessee Hospital Association with its Meritorious Service Award in 1994, and he received the prestigious College of Medicine Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dudney took great pride in being a "country doctor" and exemplified the Hippocratic Oath; one story related to his attitude toward his patients involves a man who had an outdoor job as a laborer who came to Dr. Dudney's office during the summer; concerned that he smelled bad, the patient apologized that he had not had time to take a shower before the appointment, to which Dr. Dudney replied, "When I can't take care of a working man, that's when I need to quit."; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable life of service to others, Dr. E.M. Dudney has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to specially recognize this outstanding Tennessean; 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 recognize Dr. Elijah Morgan "E.M." Dudney for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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.