

HOUSE RESOLUTION 91

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Officer Ulysses Jackson of the Chattanooga Police Department.

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of September 27, 1952, the City of Chattanooga experienced a great tragedy when Officer Ulysses Jackson was shot and killed by a recalcitrant lawbreaker whom the officer was placing under arrest; and

WHEREAS, then as now, a police officer's murder at the hands of a perpetrator served as a sobering reminder of the dangers that law enforcement professionals face on a daily basis, as they risk their own safety to protect and serve their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one of only seven African-American officers employed by the Chattanooga Police Department at the time of his death, Ulysses Jackson was a trailblazer in the law enforcement community; he was determined to overcome prejudice and bigotry and prove himself a capable police officer and dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jackson had been a member of the Chattanooga Police Department for less than two years at the time of his death, but he had already distinguished himself as "a man of honor and integrity and a police officer [who was] conscientious, dependable, and untiring in his efforts in the discharge of his duty" in the words of the chief of police; and

WHEREAS, his pastor at Second Baptist Church spoke glowingly of Officer Jackson in his eulogy, describing him as "a loyal and religious church member, a fine citizen, and a good husband ... [who] was held in high esteem, not only in his community, but throughout the city"; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jackson's funeral at Second Baptist drew some 2,000 mourners; as the church's capacity was exceeded, the crowd overflowed into the street; and

WHEREAS, his friends, fellow church members, and neighbors were joined in paying their last respects to this fallen warrior by nearly 100 off-duty officers of the Chattanooga Police Department, who served as Ulysses Jackson's honor guard; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jackson was a member of this nation's greatest generation and had proudly served America during World War II; he was a U.S. Army soldier from 1943-1946 and spent two years in combat overseas; and

WHEREAS, he was thus buried with full military honors and accompanied to his final resting place in National Cemetery by one of the largest funeral processions in Chattanooga's history; and

WHEREAS, the death of any person diminishes us, but the murder of a peace officer is especially troubling, because it demonstrates in sharp relief the thin blue line that preserves us from chaos; and

WHEREAS, Officer Ulysses Jackson gave his life maintaining that thin blue line, and his bountiful life should be appropriately commemorated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Officer Ulysses Jackson, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy of courageous public service as a police officer and his many fine attributes as a human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.