

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Jarrett Bryant Millsaps, Sr., of Hendersonville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Jarrett Bryant Millsaps, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Millsaps was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on March 2, 1947, in Chattanooga, Dr. Millsaps was the second child of William Hobart Millsaps, Sr., and Myra Sue Bryant Millsaps; and

WHEREAS, the son of career educators, he attended Daisy Elementary and Central High School in Chattanooga, where his father served as principal, and he also had the distinction of playing on the undefeated 1962 Central High School Purple Pounder football team; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Millsaps received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in secondary school administration from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); and

WHEREAS, after briefly working for the Balfour Company and in the classroom, Dr. Millsaps accepted a position in the Department of Alumni and Government Relations at MTSU; while serving in that role, he pursued a doctoral degree at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College for Teachers, from which he received his Doctor of Education degree in 1979; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, then-Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives Ned Ray McWherter hired Dr. Bryant Millsaps to serve as an Assistant Chief Clerk; what was originally meant to be a temporary job instead became a fifteen-year career in State government; and

WHEREAS, after serving as Assistant Chief Clerk of the House from 1978 to 1982, Dr. Millsaps served as Chief Clerk from 1983 to 1990; in 1990, he was elected Secretary of State by the General Assembly and admirably served in that role from 1990 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, after leaving State government, Bryant Millsaps became a small business owner, educational consultant, and director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for two years before heeding the call to full-time ministry in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Dr. Millsaps was hired to serve as assistant to Dr. Gerald Stowe, President of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes (TBCH); in January 2000, he succeeded Dr. Stowe as president and treasurer and spent the next fifteen years leading the TBCH ministry through a tremendous season of growth, and his passion for the children in their care was unsurpassed; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Millsaps retired to Hendersonville in 2016, living in a small cottage on the edge of Old Hickory Lake and spending as much time with his grandchildren as he could; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Dr. Millsaps is survived by his beloved wife, Robbie, and their children, Stacy (Jason) Eubank, Jarrett B. (Leigh Ann) Millsaps, Jr., and Kari (Jeff) Baker; grandchildren, Grace, Jacob, Faith, Turner, Luke, Caleb, Brooke, and Elijah; and great-grandchildren, Bryson and Brentlee; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, William H. Millsaps, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, respected and admired by his many friends and colleagues, Bryant Millsaps took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Millsaps 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 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Jarrett Bryant Millsaps, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a public servant and human being, and commend 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 Dr. Millsaps.

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.