

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald B. Trauger of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Donald B. Trauger; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trauger 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, Don Trauger was born in June of 1920 to Charles and Ethel Trauger in Nebraska, where he grew up in a pioneering farm family; and

WHEREAS, he learned ingenuity and drive growing up during the Great Depression on a farm and attending classes in a one-room schoolhouse without the modern comforts of plumbing or electricity; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Trauger took a job servicing farm windmills and earned a year's tuition for Nebraska Wesleyan University, where he studied physics and became curious about nuclear energy, furthering his intrigue with science that began during a 1934 visit to the World's Fair in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Don Trauger graduated from college and went to Columbia University, where he completed his graduate studies and was recruited to work on the Manhattan Project for the development of the atomic bomb; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Mr. Trauger and his new wife, Elaine Trauger, moved to Oak Ridge, where he worked for eight years at the K-25 gaseous diffusion plant before joining the staff of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he served as Associate Director for Nuclear and Engineering Technologies from 1970 to 1984 and retired in 1993 as the Senior Staff Assistant to the Director; and

WHEREAS, during his professional life, Don Trauger contributed to numerous scientific advancements through which he earned the sincerest respect from his peers and superiors alike; and

WHEREAS, he worked in irradiation test engineering, the development of gas-cooled reactor technology, and the Nuclear Power Options Viability Study, all of which furthered the possibilities of nuclear power for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trauger enjoyed honorable membership as a fellow of the American Nuclear Society, held honorary doctor of science degrees from both Nebraska Wesleyan University and Tennessee Wesleyan College, and held distinguished memberships with the American Nuclear Society, the American Association for Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, the Research Society of America, Sigma Pi Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, and the Tennessee Academy of Science; and

WHEREAS, he authored the book *Horse Power to Nuclear Power: Memoir of an Energy Pioneer* in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Don Trauger's commitment to the advancement of society did not end with his extensive professional involvement, and during his 50-year career, he devoted his time to furthering the benefits of public education; and

WHEREAS, Don Trauger served as President of the Oak Ridge PTA Council and other school organizations, Vice Chair of the Oak Ridge Board of Education, and the Chairman of the Board of Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens; and

WHEREAS, he gave his time to other civic organizations including the Oak Ridge Methodist Hospital, the Oak Ridge chapter of the American Red Cross, the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, and the Friends of Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, Don Trauger was a devoted and faithful member of the United Methodist Church, which he served in several leadership capacities, including Chairman of the Administrative Board and Co-Chair of a series of convocations that explored the relationship between science and religion; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-three years, Elaine Trauger, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Byron Roscoe and Aleta Trauger and

Thomas Charles Trauger and his wife, Jana Belsky; and

WHEREAS, his legacy and rich heritage will be remembered by his granddaughters Hallie Causey Trauger and Katherine Aleta Trauger; his brother and sister-in-law Robert Edmund and Shirley Gilliam Trauger; his nieces and nephews, Lynnelle Elaine Trauger, Melissa Trauger Dufort, and Charles Earl Trauger; and his great-nephews and great-nieces, along with a host of family and friends; 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald B. Trauger, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to the advancement of knowledge and the betterment of society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Trauger.

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