

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Otto Purkey of Alpha.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Otto Purkey, the former Sheriff of Hamblen County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purkey protected and served his fellow citizens for twenty-eight years as an officer with the Hamblen County Sheriff's Department; he began his illustrious career in law enforcement as a patrol officer in 1978 and retired in 2006 after serving two terms as Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, he had previously worked as a foreman for the Hamblen County Highway Department and a driver for Roadway Express; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Purkey enjoyed his much-deserved retirement, spending his days with family and friends and trading golf carts, lawn mowers, tractors, and anything else with wheels; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of Alpha Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary law enforcement professional is survived by his wife, Lynn Purkey; sons, Bryan (April) Purkey and Todd (Tammy) Davidson; grandsons, Bryson Purkey and Zak (Morgan) Davidson; granddaughters, Brittany (Levi) Beckelheimer and Courtney (Kyle) Shute; great-grandchildren, Rylan, Ilaria, Kylah, and Stella; brothers, Junior Purkey and David (Pamela) Purkey; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his mother, Vada Royston Purkey; father, Louis Everett Purkey; sisters, Laura Robeson and Helen Nicholson; and brother, Larry Purkey; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Otto Purkey was not only a dedicated peace officer but also the loving patriarch of his family and a tireless public servant who served his community in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should remember his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Hamblen County Sheriff Otto Purkey, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy in law enforcement, and extend to his family and friends our sympathy and condolences.

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.