

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell of Washington County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Washington County, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell was a highly respected member of her community and was widely known as the Matriarch of the Washington County Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell served with acumen and alacrity as a devoted legal assistant with Thomas E. Mitchell and Tony Seaton for fifty years, in which position she earned the respect of her employers for the superior quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, Mrs. Brockwell served as a member of the Washington County Election Commission for over forty years, having reportedly been the first female appointed to serve as an election commissioner and the first female chair of an election commission in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during her historic tenure on the Washington County Election Commission, which she served as Chair and Secretary, Mrs. Brockwell saw the installation of the first lever voting machines, the transition to electronic voting machines, and the establishment of early voting in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a charter member and the first Secretary of the Tennessee Association of County Election Officials, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell was a conscientious and diligent

election commissioner who sought to ensure the administration of fair, non-partisan elections in Washington County by professional, competent, and capable election commission employees; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2007, Mrs. Brockwell was performing her duties as a Washington County Election Commissioner at the Tennessee State Election Commission meeting in Sevierville, Tennessee, when she passed away; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell also had a long history of distinguished service to the Washington County Republican Party, which she served in numerous capacities, including a long tenure on the Executive Committee and with the Washington County Republican Women as parliamentarian and trusted advisor, along with service as Treasurer of the Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Republican Women most appropriately honored Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her years of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell also shared her time and talents as Secretary and Treasurer of the East Tennessee Chapter of the American EX-POWs and was an active and devout member of the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, which she served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all her 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 SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell, reflecting fondly

upon her impeccable character and her 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 Martha Lou Reaves Brockwell.

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