

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 150

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Charles A.
Champion of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Charles A. Champion of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Champion 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, a licensed pharmacist and an internationally known master compounder of herbal medicines, Dr. Champion operated Champion's Pharmacy and Herb Store in Whitehaven for generations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Champion was born in Memphis in 1930 and raised in Greenfield, which is where he developed his abiding love for humanity; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, shortly after graduating from Xavier University College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, Louisiana, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he honorably served a two-year tour of duty as a pharmacist in Germany; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Memphis, Dr. Charles Champion began working at the John Gaston Hospital pharmacy, thereby solidifying his place in history as the first African-American pharmacist to work in a Memphis hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Champion served with distinction for twelve years at the John Gaston Hospital pharmacy, after which time he accepted a position at Katz Drug Store and became the first African-American pharmacist ever hired by a chain store in the city; and

WHEREAS, while working at Katz Drug Store, he continued to gain the experience and knowledge he would later utilize in opening Champion's Pharmacy in 1981 on Third Street and Mallory Avenue in South Memphis; he later moved his business to Elvis Presley Boulevard and opened an herb store right inside the pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Champion was a beloved member of the Memphis community and a trusted healer; many Mid-South families contain as many as three generations who have patronized Champion's Pharmacy and Herb Store for the wise advice and excellent products they needed; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Champion used his vast knowledge to help promote the healing of common ailments through herbs, herbal supplements, home remedies, homeopathic remedies, and more; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Champion received several prestigious awards, including the Bowl of Hygeia Award for Outstanding Community Service as a Pharmacist and the 1987 Pharmacist of the Year Award; he also received the Dr. Henry L. Starks Distinguished Service Award; the Outstanding Achievement in Health Profession Award, presented by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; the Outstanding Service Award, presented by the National Pharmaceutical Association; and the Key to the City of Memphis in 2019; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife, Carolyn Bailey Champion, and daughters, Dr. Charita Champion Brookins and Dr. Carol "Cookie" Champion, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps to become pharmacists; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Champion 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 we should 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 and celebrate the life of Dr. Charles A. Champion, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and 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. Champion.

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.