

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 158

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Louise Ellis Clifton of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Louise Ellis Clifton; and

WHEREAS, Louise Ellis "Lou" Clifton 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 native Tennessean born and raised in Murfreesboro, Louise Clifton was the daughter of A.J. and Mary Ellis and graduated from Murfreesboro Central High School in 1969; and

WHEREAS, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Middle Tennessee State University and earned a Master of Education degree in Library Science from Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, an elementary school librarian, Lou Clifton served with Metro Nashville Public Schools for her entire career, primarily at Caldwell Early Childhood Center and Glendale Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1977, Louise Clifton was joined in holy matrimony with Stewart Clifton, and the young couple settled in the Hillsboro-West End neighborhood of Nashville, becoming esteemed members of that community; and

WHEREAS, passionate about bettering the lives of others, Mrs. Clifton worked many political campaigns, registered Tennesseans to receive healthcare benefits, tutored disadvantaged adults to help them gain their general equivalency degrees, and volunteered with several environmental causes and groups; and

WHEREAS, Louise Clifton was also a very active and devout member of Glendale Baptist Church, an Alliance of Baptists congregation, which she served in almost every position, from leadership committees to preparation of supper every Wednesday; and

WHEREAS, a talented and gracious woman who was beloved by all who knew her, Louise Clifton was a master gardener, a skilled knitter, and a wonderful cook; and

WHEREAS, Lou Clifton enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of forty-one years, Stewart Clifton, and was the proud mother of two children, Jeffrey (Elisabeth Bradner) Clifton and Phillip (Laura Elizabeth) Clifton, and the loving grandmother of one grandson, Hank Alton Clifton; and

WHEREAS, Louise Clifton 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 the members of 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Louise Ellis "Lou" Clifton, 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 Mrs. Clifton.

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