

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 162

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Archbishop William Francis Forbes of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Archbishop William Francis Forbes; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes 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, ordained a priest in the Orthodox Catholic Church in 1952 and consecrated a bishop in 1974, Archbishop Forbes was the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Nashville, the see of the Holy Orthodox Church, American Jurisdiction, through which he worked diligently to promote the Orthodox faith in a liturgical format (and language) designed for Americans; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Archbishop Forbes chose to make the focus of his lifelong ministry the brave men and women who had served in the United States military, just as he had during one of the country's most trying periods; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Archbishop Forbes served as a Chaplain in the Tennessee National Guard, achieving the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop William Forbes was a life member in American Legion Nashville Post 5; Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Nashville Chapter 3; the National Order of Trench Rats, a DAV auxiliary organization; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars West Nashville Post 1970; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes brought his considerable skills as a pastoral leader to both the American Legion and the DAV, serving Post 5 and Chapter 3 in a number of capacities over the years, including DAV Department Commander; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Archbishop William F. Forbes rendered sterling service as a member of the Army Air Force; and

WHEREAS, after the war ended, Archbishop Forbes became Commander of his local American Legion post in Missouri in 1946, but he returned to Nashville and transferred his membership to Post 5; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the next ten years, Archbishop Forbes served Post 5 in a number of capacities: as Executive Adjutant, its War Memorial Auditorium Manager, the Post 5 Band Drum Major, and editor of the post's monthly newspaper, as well as the editor of the Tennessee National Guard newspaper; and

WHEREAS, during this period, Archbishop Forbes devoted much of his time to the inmates at the Tennessee State Main Prison in Nashville, where he served as Chaplain; and

WHEREAS, in addition to all those commitments during those years, he also served Governor Gordon W. Browning as his Press Secretary; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes moved away from Nashville for about a dozen years, but returned in the mid-1960s to assume the position of Post Chaplain for the American Legion's Post 5, and he resumed playing in the Post 5 Band as well; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Archbishop Forbes again became the Post Executive Adjutant and began editing the post newspaper, just as he had done in an earlier decade; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his local service to Post 5, Archbishop Forbes was State Chaplain in the American Legion Departments of Ohio, Florida, and Tennessee, National Chaplain of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) as well as the American Legion Press Association, and National Executive Committeeman of the SAL; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his dedicated service, the members of Post 5 named Archbishop Forbes Chaplain Emeritus in 1990, and they also honored him with the Leon Gilbert Award in 2001; and

WHEREAS, his service to the DAV as Department Commander from 1998-1999 was hardly his only contribution to that esteemed organization; a Past Commander of DAV Nashville Chapter 3, Archbishop Forbes also served the Chapter as its Chaplain for many years (including at the time of his passing); he also served as a DAV Deputy National Chaplain, the National

Chaplain equivalent in the National Order of Trench Rats, as well as many years as Department Chaplain for the DAV Departments of Florida and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes was a very active patriot and advocate for his fellow veterans, and his veteran associations provided him with many opportunities for counseling on both an individual and collective basis; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned McWherter appointed Archbishop Forbes to represent the DAV on the Tennessee World War II Memorial Commission, which resulted in the dedication of the World War II Memorial at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop William F. Forbes was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-four years, Corrine Williams Forbes, whom he met while stationed at Berry Field during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Forbes joined her husband in his ministry to American veterans, serving a term as the Department Commander of the Tennessee DAV Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop and Mrs. Forbes also served together in the Civil Air Patrol (a U.S. Air Force Auxiliary) in the 1960s, attaining the ranks of Captain and First Lieutenant respectively; their youngest son, Chris, was also a cadet member of the CAP; and

WHEREAS, the Forbeses' admirable marriage produced three sons: William Francis Forbes, Jr., James Allison Forbes, and Christopher Kevin Forbes; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his sons, Archbishop Forbes will be sorely missed by his six grandchildren, James Henry Forbes, Scott Douglas Forbes, Christopher Damon Forbes, Kevin Francis Forbes, Rachel Allison Forbes, and Hannah Louise Forbes; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by four great-grandchildren: Benjamin Nicholas Forbes, Dylan Marshal Forbes, Myah Kendall Forbes, and Jenna Elizabeth Forbes; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Forbes 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 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 Archbishop William F. Forbes, 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 Archbishop Forbes.

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