

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 557

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Hicks Lillard, Sr.,  
of Fayette County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of David Hicks Lillard, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, David Lillard 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, born on November 15, 1929, in Clinton, Kentucky, Mr. Lillard was the son of Luther Lee Lillard and Mabel Hicks Lillard, the latter of whom was a deputy sheriff and business owner in the 1930s and 1940s; and

WHEREAS, growing up, he learned the value of hard work from his parents and from working on the family farm and in the family trucking business; as a teenager during World War II, he drove freight trucks going as far north as Chicago and as far south as New Orleans for his mother's trucking company; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Central High School in Clinton, Kentucky, David Lillard received his pharmacy education at Murray State University and graduated from the Pharmacy School at the University of Tennessee Medical Units in Memphis in 1951; and

WHEREAS, prior to beginning a pioneering pharmacy and business career, David married Betty Gayle McKay of Keiser, Arkansas, in August 1952 and entered military service, joining the U.S. Army and graduating from Officers Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps and served stateside at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, and Brooke Army Medical Center in Houston, Texas, during the Korean War era; he was honorably discharged in 1954; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Mr. Lillard returned to Memphis and worked as a pharmacist for several drug store owners before launching what would become a visionary business venture when he purchased his first retail drug store in late 1955, going on to open several more drug stores; and

WHEREAS, David Lillard implemented various innovations in his pharmacy operations, including the first computer in a retail drug store in Tennessee in the early 1970s; in 1974, he sold his retail stores, expanding the business to provide pharmacy services to nursing homes and proprietary hospitals, ultimately selling his pharmacy service business in 1987, at which point it was the largest privately owned servicer of nursing homes and hospitals in Tennessee. He later founded Pharmacy Systems Corporation, which provided computer programming for pharmacy operations; and

WHEREAS, he semi-retired in the late 1980s to his property in Fayette County, where he farmed sod grass and became active in the community, including serving as a member of Pleasant's Christian Church in the Macon Community of Fayette County; in 2002, he was elected as a County Commissioner and served until August 2022, when he fully retired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lillard was also deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, David Lillard is survived by his younger brother, Col. Joseph K. Lillard; his son, Tennessee State Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr.; his daughter, Robin Lillard Bates; his grandchildren, Scott Lillard, Brooke Lillard, Juliana Bates, and Elise Bates Caldwell; and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Todd Hampton Lillard; his older brother, Hampton Lillard; his son-in-law, John B. Bates; and his infant sister, Louisa Lillard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lillard 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 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David Hicks Lillard, Sr., 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 Mr. Lillard.

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.