

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 592

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Arthur Massey Fowler, Jr., of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Arthur Massey Fowler, Jr., of Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Massey Fowler, Jr., 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 June 29, 1945, Mr. Fowler was the son of Arthur M. Fowler and Lucy Thomas Fowler of Loudon; he attended Loudon County schools and the Webb School in Bell Buckle; and

WHEREAS, having been tutored by a German couple, he spent two summers working in an iron foundry in Solingen, Germany, where he became proficient in German and developed a passion for foreign travel; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, Arthur Fowler received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, in 1968; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 1968, Lt. Fowler reported for active duty with the United States Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky; he completed the Armor Officers Basic Course and received a 1203 PMOS (Tank Unit Commander) and was assigned to Armor School as a Tactical Training Officer; and

WHEREAS, he was subsequently deployed to Vietnam and arrived on June 7, 1969, where he was assigned to a Mobile Advisory Team (MAT); his MAT I-31 was a team made up of two officers and three high-ranking sergeants charged with advising the Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces in protecting their homes and villages; and

WHEREAS, he was stationed in the Quang Da Special Zone, securing the city of Da Nang and the Hai Van Pass, and was discharged on May 19, 1970, having acquired a 1542 DMOS (Infantry Unit Commander); and

WHEREAS, Lt. Fowler served with honor throughout his years of service, receiving numerous awards and distinctions, including a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, a Bronze Star Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge, two Overseas Bars, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a Vietnamese Armed Forces Medal, First Class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowler returned from conflict and attended the University of Tennessee College of Law, receiving a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1973; he graduated from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in Boulder, Colorado, in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Fowler had practiced law in Memphis and Johnson City since 1973, focusing on civil litigation, business, and estate and probate matters; and

WHEREAS, he was involved in several notable cases, including suing on behalf of the State of Tennessee to protect the environment from aerial poisoning; representing the neighbors of the Bumpass Cove Landfill, who suffered environmental damages; representing Jarl Extrusions in a labor strike; ensuring fair pay for employees of the Washington County Clerk and Master's and the Trustee's offices; protecting citizens from bureaucratic malfeasance; contesting and defending governmental election challenges; and protecting widows and orphans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Fowler worked in harmony alongside his son for twenty years, practicing law and relaying his enthusiasm for the law profession and his high ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, committed to his faith, Arthur Fowler was a devout member of the First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, where he served as a Deacon and an Elder and in several other capacities; and

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

WHEREAS, Arthur Fowler will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his college sweetheart and beloved wife of fifty-two years, Virginia Chaplin "Jenny" Fowler; his son, Arthur M. Fowler III and his wife, Jennie Fowler, and their children, Maisie, Arthur "Max" IV, and Owen; his daughter, Mary Litton Fowler Thornton and her husband, David Thornton, and their children, Jack and Elizabeth; his sister and brother-in-law, Clarke and Joe Harrison; several nephews; and a grandnephew and grandniece; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fowler 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 Arthur Massey Fowler, Jr., 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. Fowler.

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.