

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 623

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Atchley.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, James "Chief" Atchley, former volunteer firefighter, was one such outstanding public servant, and the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atchley was a volunteer firefighter for forty years and served as the chief of the Sevierville Sevier County Volunteer Fire Department for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, James Atchley worked with other communities to start their own volunteer fire departments and was instrumental in bringing about Sevier County's first E-911 dispatch center; and

WHEREAS, James Atchley was a staunch advocate for fire prevention and often paid for smoke detectors with his own money; and

WHEREAS, before his firefighting career, Mr. Atchley owned Jim Atchley Exxon and served as the funeral director of Atchley Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Mr. Atchley was a member of First Baptist Church of Sevierville where he was a lifetime deacon and the chairman of the parking lot committee; and

WHEREAS, friends and colleagues remember James Atchley as a “father figure,” “a loving and caring man,” and a man who saw a need and responded, not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do; and

WHEREAS, James Atchley 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Atchley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, dedication to public service, 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. Atchley.

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