

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 753

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jerry Hays of Gatlinburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry Hays; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hays 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, along with his wife, Nancy, Jerry Hays was a staple in the Gatlinburg hotel industry, owning such notable establishments as the Mountain House and the Hampton Inn; his business acumen and customer service earned him the respect of both his guests and his employees; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Mr. Hays served six terms as a commissioner for the City of Gatlinburg, being elected in the years 1985, 1989, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015. He also served eight years as mayor and six years as vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hays was instrumentally involved with many notable projects, including the Gatlinburg Convention Center; the new City Hall that includes police and fire department headquarters; the placement of several utilities underground in Gatlinburg; the Mills Conference Center; the \$24 million Rocky Top Sports World; and retaining the Arrowmont School of Arts in Gatlinburg; and

WHEREAS, always the entrepreneur, Mr. Hays also found success through his association with the Hays House Restaurant that was owned and operated by his parents, the late Gerald and Stella Hays; and

WHEREAS, since 1959, Jerry Hays had been an active and devout member of First Baptist Gatlinburg, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon; and

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

WHEREAS, Jerry Hays will be fondly remembered by his wife of sixty-two years, Nancy Huff Hays; his children, Sara Hays, Kendall Hays and wife Fatima, Rick Hays and wife Teresa, and Christy Headla and husband Larry; his grandchildren, Kayla Bennett, Marcia Hopson, Ethan Hays, Jessi Hunter, Brittany Wilson, Christopher Berry, and Ian Berry; his great-grandchildren, Thomas Bennett, Charlee Hunter, Kace Hunter, and Izzy Wilson; and his many cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hays 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jerry Hays, 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. Hays.

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