

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 784

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edward G. Nelson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Edward G. Nelson of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson 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, instrumental in building links between Middle Tennessee and Japan, Edward G. Nelson was a distinguished civic leader and esteemed businessman in the financial services industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson's prestigious career included more than twenty years with Commerce Union Bank, now Bank of America, where he served as Chief Executive Officer from 1983 to 1985 before resigning to establish Nelson Capital Corporation; he was a member of the Nashville board of the Federal Reserve Bank; he was highly involved with the Premier Bankers Association; and he was invited to become an advisor to the Industrial Bank of Japan; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his exceptional business acumen and understanding of the global economy, Edward Nelson helped to shape Middle Tennessee's economic landscape with his longtime commitment to fostering business ties with Japan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson played a key role in the successful effort to bring a Nissan auto plant to Smyrna and helped relocate the Japanese Consulate office to Nashville from New Orleans in 2008 after eight years of recruiting efforts; and

WHEREAS, Edward Nelson's ties to Japan can be traced to his military service during the Korean War, when he was stationed in that country as an intelligence officer and grew a deep appreciation for Japan's people and culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Nelson was named the Japanese government's Honorary Consul General in Tennessee, and in 2008, the emperor of Japan awarded him the country's highest honor for non-Japanese decorations, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, for his contributions to improving Japanese-U.S. relations; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy and Sewanee: The University of the South, Edward G. Nelson hailed from a family with a longtime legacy of service in the financial industry, including his great-grandfather, Charles Nelson, who helped establish the first Nashville Bank and Trust in the 1800s; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired for his extensive business experience and insight, Mr. Nelson served on twenty-five corporate boards during his career, including Berlitz and TransArabian Investment Bank; and

WHEREAS, a generous philanthropist and community leader, Edward Nelson touched every aspect of the Nashville community with his extensive philanthropic work. He joined the Vanderbilt Board of Trust in 1981 and served twenty-two years as chairman of Vanderbilt University's Medical Center Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson's other community involvements included helping father the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation at Vanderbilt University; serving as Senior Warden at St. George's Episcopal Church; chairing The United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society; working essential board positions for Cumberland Heights, Junior League of Nashville, The Greater Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Cheekwood, Nashville Symphony, Tennessee Heart Association, PENCIL, Metro Nashville Public Education Foundation, and the Leah Rose Home; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Nelson received the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Distinguished Service Award, the MBA Distinguished Alumna Award, the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award, the Japan-America Society's Iris Award, the Leukemia Society Service Award, and the Sister Cities of Nashville Award; and

WHEREAS, Edward Nelson was an avid, competitive tennis player. He continued to learn new languages throughout his life, was fluent in conversational Japanese and French, and spoke some Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Russian; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Carole Minton Nelson; his daughters, Carole Nelson Kirkland, Emily Nelson Baxter, and Ellen Prentiss Nelson; his grandchildren, Gage Baxter, Sloane Baxter, Callie Kirkland, and Sarah Kirkland; and his sister, Mary Elizabeth Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson 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, from banking and finance to philanthropy and international relations, Mr. Nelson's impact is woven throughout the fabric of the Southeast's growth over the last half century. Several of his peers summed his outlook on life best when they inscribed a copy of National Geographic's *Atlas of the World*: "To our good friend, Ed Nelson, who with wisdom and good humor strides across the world as easily as other men cross the street"; 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Edward G. Nelson, 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. Nelson.

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