

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 920

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Clarence M. Nelson of Oliver Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Clarence M. Nelson; 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, born in Oliver Springs on May 28, 1942, Clarence Nelson was the son of Virgil and Maude Etta Nelson and was named after his uncle Clarence Conant, who was killed while serving our country at Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime resident of the area, Mr. Nelson graduated from Oliver Springs High School and attended Tennessee Technological University before embarking on a career as a mechanic in the body shop of the Ford Motor Company in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, becoming known as an excellent mechanic, he transferred to the East Tennessee Motor Company in Knoxville and later built a garage at his home, where he did paint and body work for friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson returned to Oliver Springs when he accepted a position as a barrier operator at the K-25 site; he worked in that position for six years before moving to the Y-12 Plant in 1981; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, he took his much-deserved retirement from Y-12 after twenty-four years of service, having most recently held the post of Fire Captain. During his tenure there, he received the Award of Excellence for his quick response during an emergency that resulted in saving the life of a co-worker; and

WHEREAS, proud to be a firefighter both on and off the job, Mr. Nelson was an original member of the Blair Volunteer Fire Department in 1972 and became Fire Chief of the organization in 1990, having served as a loyal and dedicated member for forty-six years; and

WHEREAS, recognized in 2014 for his many contributions to Roane County as a Roane Treasure, Clarence Nelson enjoyed coaching youth baseball and softball, singing gospel songs, and leading the choir in his home church, New Fairview Baptist, where he was a lifetime member; and

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

WHEREAS, Clarence Nelson enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Gail Coker Nelson, and was the proud father of Gina (Randy) Bradford, Katrina Morris, and Natasha (Scott) Noe; and

WHEREAS, he was the beloved grandfather and great-grandfather of four grandchildren, Tayla Morris, Shawna (Chris) Edgemon, Zackary Noe, and Wyatt Noe, and one great-granddaughter, Madison Edgemon; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, J.C. Nelson, and his sister, Doris Mullins; and

WHEREAS, Clarence 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, 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 Clarence M. 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.