

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 986

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mike "Boots" Ford of Sulphur Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mike "Boots" Ford of Sulphur Springs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford 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 and raised in Washington County, Mike Ford graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1971 before going on to serve his country for eight years in the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ford served with acumen and alacrity as the Lead of the Food Service Department for the Washington County Sheriff's Department, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this admirable work, Mr. Ford served three terms as a Washington County Commissioner; he was also a member of the Sinking Creek Masonic Lodge, the Arcania Eastern Star Lodge, the Blue Knights International Motorcycle Club, the Washington County Cattleman's Association, and the Hales Chapel and Leesburg Ruritan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford served on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Constable Association, and he was serving his twenty-seventh year as the oldest member of the Washington County Reserve Deputy Program at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, an enthusiast of old cars and equipment, Mr. Ford served as the president of the Tri-State Antique Power Association and belonged to several antique car clubs; and

WHEREAS, a proud member of New Hope Brethren Church, Mike Ford had unyielding Christian morals, and he sang and played bass for many gospel groups over the years; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife and soulmate, Jan; his son, Mike Hawkins, and his wife, Julie; his two grandchildren, Caleb and Izzy; his brothers, Ray Ford, Dale Ford, and Dennis Ford; his sisters, Donna Pruitt and June Gibson; his sisters-in-law, Bertha Ford, Joyce Ford, and Joan Ford; his brothers-in-law, David Pruitt and Tim Gibson; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Nelson and Cleo Ford, four brothers, and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford 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 TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mike "Boots" Ford, 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. Ford.

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.