

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1191

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chief Bruce Cureton of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Cureton, who served as the eleventh Chief of the Knoxville Fire Department (KFD) for fifteen years (1982-1997); and

WHEREAS, during his thirty-year career, Chief Cureton distinguished himself as "one of the most well-loved men that ever served the Knoxville Fire Department"; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure as fire chief, Knoxville hired the city's first female firefighters, ushered in the 911 system, modernized its radio system, and replaced ninety-six percent of its firefighting equipment; and

WHEREAS, Chief Cureton often stated that he loved his profession "because of the lights and sirens and excitement," but he was always sincere about serving the citizens of Knoxville to the best of his ability; and

WHEREAS, his brother, the late Edward Cureton, also served as Knoxville's fire chief (2002-2004); and

WHEREAS, Chief Cureton was a member of Sevier Heights Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime member of the International Fire Chiefs Association, he had proudly served in the Tennessee Air National Guard; and

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

WHEREAS, Chief Cureton is survived by his daughters, Melissa Cureton (Anthony), Mary Beth Cooper, and Jennifer Buckner (John); stepson, Mike Lawson; son-in-law, Ted Farmer; grandchildren, Alanna Farmer, Sam Clanton, Jordan Norton (Noah), and Jenna and Joli Buckner; great-grandson, Kyson Norton; numerous adored cousins, nieces, and nephews; and special friend and former executive assistant, Vicky Dalton; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his loving wife, Glenda Cureton; parents, Pat and Mary Ellen Cureton; brother, Edward Cureton; sister, Linda Winn; and stepdaughter, Tracy Farmer; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Cureton 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 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 Bruce Cureton, reflecting fondly upon his exemplary tenure as Chief of the Knoxville Fire Department and his many contributions to fire service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Chief Cureton.

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.