

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7008

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gerald Joseph Neal of Jellico.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Gerald Joseph Neal; and

WHEREAS, Gerald "Jerry" Neal 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, Mr. Neal was a graduate of Jellico High School, Class of 1962, and he attended Cumberland College, where he majored in business administration; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Neal served as an employee of McComb Supply Company for thirty-two years and ultimately became the company's president; he later became a real estate agent and real estate broker; and

WHEREAS, a tireless statesman, Mr. Neal served his country proudly in the United States Army and dedicated much of his life to the promotion and enhancement of the City of Jellico; he was elected to the Jellico City Council four times, most recently in 2022, and he served as chairman of the Caring Hearts Committee for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, he further served as an advocate for community sports leagues, organizing and playing in a tennis league and later co-founding Jellico Junior Pro Basketball, which he served as an administrator and coach; he especially enjoyed coaching his son's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal was an active and devout member of the Jellico First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years in a number of capacities; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Kathryn Lynne Lambdin "Kathy" Neal, who preceded him in death, and was the proud father of Joseph Neal; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his sister, Patty Neal-Smith, and her husband, Ron Smith; three nephews, Keith Watson, Kent Watson, and Neal Grisso; a niece, Kelly Arter; several great-nephews and great-nieces; a sister-in-law, Betty Allen; and a host of friends, neighbors, and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Neal and Eleanor R. Curry Neal; his paternal grandparents, Henry and Catherine Neal; his maternal grandparents, George Curry and Ida Barton Curry; his sister, Karen Neal Sperro; his parents-in-law, Albert C. Lambdin, Sr., and Beulah Bennett Lambdin; and his brother-in-law, Albert C. Lambdin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal 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 Gerald Joseph Neal, 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. Neal.

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.