

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7097

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Renfro Blackburn  
"Buddy" Baird III of Rogersville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Renfro Blackburn "Buddy" Baird III; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Baird 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, the son of Renfro Blackburn Baird, Jr., and Elsie Mae Newman Baird, Buddy Baird was a graduate of Rogersville High School and attended Appalachian State University to play college football; and

WHEREAS, he completed his undergraduate degree at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, and earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of the legal profession, Mr. Baird practiced law for more than thirty years and served as a municipal judge for the City of Bulls Gap; during his career, he practiced in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts of Tennessee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and various U.S. federal courts; and

WHEREAS, recognized for his acumen and integrity, he was appointed to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission by Governor Ned McWherter and served with distinction as chairman of the Tennessee Wildlife Commission upon his appointment by Governor Don Sundquist; and

WHEREAS, an avid hunter and outdoorsman, Mr. Baird also served as a board member of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, sharing his vast knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird was very involved in politics and served as a campaign chair for U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander and Fred Thompson and was active in the political campaigns of U.S. Congressman William "Bill" Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of Rogersville First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Buddy Baird enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Bridget Ryan Baird, and was the proud father of Ryan Blackburn Baird; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baird will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his sisters, Elizabeth (Charlie) Allis, Margaret (Ronnie) Price, and Becky Ehrhard; his brother, Ed (Tammy) Baird; his sisters-in-law, Freddie (Scott) Bleeks, Beth (Kurt) Winstead, Etta (John) Clark, and Susan Ryan; several nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Charlie Baird, and his brothers-in-law, Tim Ryan and Tom Ehrhard; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Baird 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 Renfro Blackburn "Buddy" Baird III, 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. Baird.

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.