

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7142

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Don Francis Farmer of Milan.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Don Francis Farmer of Milan; and

WHEREAS, Don Farmer 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, a native son of Tennessee, Don Farmer was born on February 12, 1947, to Robert Paul and Laura Louise Allred Farmer of Lavinia; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation from high school, Mr. Farmer worked for ITT in Milan for many years and later at Ekco-Glaco (Chicago Metallic) in Humboldt; he also worked at Dickies' Florist and opened and managed the Huddle House Restaurant in Milan; and

WHEREAS, the true love of Mr. Farmer's life was his involvement in countless civic and political endeavors at the local, State, and national levels, including service as the Mayor of Milan from 1992 to 1997, president of the Milan Rebounders Club, member of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, former member of the Board of Directors of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, member of the Milan General Hospital Healthcare Board and 2014 chairman of the Annual Fundraising Gala, member of the Board of Trustees of the Milan Special School District, former member of the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors, chairman of the Milan Chapter of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, and past president of the West Carroll Area Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, Mr. Farmer was a member of the Tennessee Cares Early Headstart Policy Council and Government Board with Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, awarded a lifetime membership in the Jaycees Club, he was a past president of the Milan Jaycees Club and a past State president, a member of the State of Tennessee Volunteer Corps, a Tennessee Outstanding State Project chairman, and a member of the Jaycees International Senate; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of the first class of Gibson County Adult Leadership in 1990, served as chairman of the Gibson County Sesquicentennial, and was a past member of the Gibson County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 State of Tennessee Library Association Trustee of the Year, Mr. Farmer lent his time and talents to support area regional libraries and worked with the Imagination Library in its fundraising endeavors; he was a former chairman of the Gibson County Imagination Library, the Reelfoot Regional Library Board, and the Obion River Library Board; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Democrat, Don Farmer was awarded the Tennessee Young Democrat Life Membership in 1999, appointed as an Ambassador of Good Will by President Bill Clinton, named a Colonel and Aide-de-Camp to Governor Ned McWherter, and served as a Tennessee delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 2016; he was a former member of the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee and a past president of the Gibson County Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was named Tennessee Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1980, Milan Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 2004, *Milan Mirror* Volunteer of the Year from 2016 to 2018, and Milan Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1973; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Farmer is survived by his "grandchildren," Alan Staggs and Matt Staggs, and their parents, James and Audrey Staggs; his brother, Bill (Anita) Farmer; friends, Richard and Rebecca Rushing; and a host of dear friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Walsh, and his brother, Robert Paul "Butch" Farmer; and

WHEREAS, Don Farmer 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 we 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 Don Francis Farmer, 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. Farmer.

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.