

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9
By Patton

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Delos Poe Culp of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Delos Poe Culp, President Emeritus of East Tennessee State University, who was a driving force in the creation of the James H. Quillen College of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, D. P. Culp was born in Clanton, Alabama, the son of the late Joseph D. and Lela Popwell Culp, and he earned a teaching diploma from Jacksonville (Alabama) Normal School; he then returned to teach in the same one-room schoolhouse in Chilton County that he had attended as a child; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Culp later taught in the Chilton and Butler County school systems, and served as principal in several schools, including a 32-teacher high school in Greeneville, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, upon the completion of his bachelor's degree in 1937 and master's degree in 1940 from Auburn University, D. P. Culp served as superintendent of schools in Chilton County from 1942-46; he then served as a professional staff member of the Alabama Department of Education from 1946-52, completing his doctorate in education from Columbia University in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Culp returned to Auburn in 1951 to organize the school's doctoral program in education; in 1954, he left to become president of Livingston State College in Alabama. He was president of Alabama College, now the University of Montevallo, until accepting the position of president of East Tennessee State University in 1968; and

WHEREAS, D. P. Culp was director of the Alabama Education Commission for the Alabama Legislature from 1957-59, and served the U.S. State Department as part of a six-member mission to the Philippines from 1959-60 to improve education. He served as president of the Alabama Association of College Administrators in 1960, and the Alabama Education Association as Department of Higher Education president in 1961, chairman of the Policies Commission from 1960-62, and as chairman of the Legislative Committee in 1962; and

WHEREAS, as president of ETSU from 1968-77, D.P. Culp worked closely with then United States Representative James H. Quillen, state Senator Marshall T. Nave, state Representative Palma L. Robinson, and *Johnson City Press-Chronicle* Publisher Carl A. Jones to press for the establishment of the medical school; former state Senator and Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Tom Garland stated *"There's no question that the quality of health care in this region has improved dramatically because of that medical school and the efforts of D. P. Culp. He served his college well. He served the state well. He certainly served this region well."*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Culp also presided over an era of significant growth at ETSU; the Memorial Center, popularly known as the mini-dome, and the university center that bears his name were built during this period; and

WHEREAS, current ETSU president, Paul Stanton, said of D. P. Culp, *"The news of Dr. Culp's passing has brought a deep sadness to the University community that he served so well with unwavering commitment and personal strength. During his tenure as ETSU's fourth president...(his) administrative leadership and tenacity brought important opportunities and developments to our campus and to our region. From academic programming to new physical facilities to public radio to the establishment of our College of Medicine, Dr. Culp exerted a*

special vision for (ETSU) and the Tri-Cities - a vision that continues to build upon itself today.";
and

WHEREAS, D.P. Culp 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, Dr. Culp was named Outstanding Alumnus of Jacksonville State University and was honored by his inclusion in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Who's Who in American Education*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the Methodist Church*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Alabama Lives*, and *Who's Who in the World*; and

WHEREAS, D.P. Culp was a member of AF&AM Lodge No. 70, Montevallo, Alabama and the Johnson City Rotary Club; his many professional memberships included the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the School Administration Association, and the ETSU Retirees' Association. Dr. Culp was also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Alpha, Kappa Phi Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Culp was a lifelong Methodist who served as lay leader in the South Alabama West Florida Conference, and on the Board of the Selma, Alabama Methodist Children's Home; he was the author of numerous articles in religious publications. In Johnson City he was an active and devout member of the Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as Sunday school teacher, steward, choir member and local and district lay leader; and

WHEREAS, D. P. Culp was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Culp enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Martha Street Culp, and was the proud parent of Jean C. Flanigan, James D. Culp and Dr. John S. Culp; he is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Alee C. Henley and his grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, D.P. Culp 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 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. Delos Poe Culp, 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 Dr. D. P. Culp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.