

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 170

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Knoxville City
Councilman Danny Mayfield.

WHEREAS, It was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mr. Danny Mayfield of Knoxville, one of Tennessee's most distinguished public servants, after a long and courageous battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Born in Camden, New Jersey, Mr. Mayfield graduated from Knoxville College, where he served with distinction as President of the Student Government Association, graduated summa cum laude and was class valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, A gentleman who fully appreciated the responsibilities, as well as the privileges of citizenship, Danny Mayfield began his meritorious career in public service in 1997; his personal charisma and savvy grassroots campaign enabled him to defeat the heavily favored incumbent in Knoxville's 6th District Councilmanic race; and

WHEREAS, He also rendered astute service as acting Dean of Students at Knoxville College prior to devoting all of his time to council duties; and

WHEREAS, Danny utilized his innovative skills as a representative of the good people of the 6th District by appointing a "cabinet" of advisers from the community to deal with important issues; and

WHEREAS, A devout Christian and ordained minister, Mr. Mayfield was highly admired and respected by his peers as a civic leader of uncommon foresight and dedication; prior to his graduation from Knoxville College he and Chris Woodhull founded Tribe One, an inner-city ministry to help youth combat the influence of drugs, gangs and other social problems; and

WHEREAS, In April of last year, Danny was appropriately awarded the 2000 NAACP Freedom Fund Gala's NAACP Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Danny will be remembered as a devoted public servant who loved his adopted city, and who fearlessly battled his illness, often refusing his doctor's orders to rest in order to attend Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, In the words of Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe, "Danny Mayfield set a courageous example for bravery and optimism in his battle against cancer. He demonstrated a spirit that can serve as a model for others who face cancer or other forms of adversity"; and

WHEREAS, The singular legacy of devoted public service that Mr. Mayfield leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by his many friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville College President, Dr. Barbara Hatton called Danny Mayfield "a loyal son of Knoxville College and an effective advocate for us. He personified the words of our alma mater, that we will always be loyal and true. We all sing the song, but Danny lived the words. He never let us down"; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional gentleman is survived by his loving wife and fellow Knoxville College alumnus, Melissa Mayfield, and his loving children, Din and Nia; and

WHEREAS, People of Danny's eminent stature do not often walk among us, and his death creates a void that will not be easily filled; 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 hereby pause to honor the memory of Mr. Danny Mayfield, recalling fondly his life of purpose and commitment and his many valuable contributions to the growth and prosperity of Knoxville and Tennessee, even as we mourn his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy and condolences to Mr. Mayfield's family and many friends.

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