

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William Valerius "Val" Sanford for his laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders and professionals of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is William Valerius "Val" Sanford, who has often committed himself to the betterment of this state, as well as to the progress of the legal profession; he has been an exemplary member of the Tennessee bar for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the law firm of Gullet, Sanford, Robinson, and Martin, Mr. Sanford has still found time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable organizations as the Nashville Bar Association's Mentoring and Colleagues Program, the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, and the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, Mr. Sanford showed great valor as a B-29 navigator during World War II, afterwards returning home to achieve many honors as a Vanderbilt Law School student; and

WHEREAS, his was the first *Vanderbilt Law Review* article to be cited by the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanford epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is a lifelong citizen of this state, hailing from Ripley, and he has devoted himself wholly to various professional and public service endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a former law partner of Governor Frank Clement, Mr. Sanford played an instrumental role in the numerous, far-reaching judicial reforms proposed and enacted during Governor Clement's administrations; and

WHEREAS, he authored Tennessee's version of the Uniform Commercial Code during Governor Clement's second administration; this and his other worthy efforts in judicial reform resulted in his receipt of the Tennessee Bar Association's Award of Merit in 1963; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Tennessee Law Revision Commission, he drafted and secured the passage of legislation which confirmed the rule-making power of Tennessee's Supreme Court, which led to the adoption of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and the revision of the state's Criminal Code; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanford drafted statutes which reformed the state's purchasing practices and procedures governing the Railroad and Public Utilities Commission, the predecessor of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority; and

WHEREAS, as his colleague Douglas Fisher has so aptly put it, "No person alive has had such a profound influence on the statutory and procedural law of our state"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanford is a life member of the American Law Institute and the Sixth Circuit Court Judicial Conference, as well as a member of the American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, and the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2000, Mr. Sanford was awarded the highest honor conferred by the Nashville Bar Association, the John C. Tune Public Service Award, which is given only in those years when there is a deserving recipient; and

WHEREAS, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Immanuel Baptist Church, he places great value upon his family life and is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Betty, and their three children, all of whom are pursuing careers in education; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud William Valerius Sanford for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens and his professionalism and modesty in establishing a record of public service unparalleled in the annals of this state's history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend William Valerius "Val" Sanford for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as an attorney and public servant and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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