

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 600  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend George Thomas, Jr., Esquire, for his honorable and astute service to Weakley County, to Tennessee, and to the United States.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, George C. Thomas, Jr., Esquire, is one such praiseworthy person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is a highly respected member of the Dresden community, and because of his involvement in the community in both professional and public life, he earned the stellar distinction of serving as Grand Marshal of the Iris Parade; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an attorney and County Judge, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to Dresden and Weakley County; and

WHEREAS, a devout Democrat, Mr. Thomas has been a vital force in Tennessee politics throughout his life; he has worked tirelessly in many civic endeavors out of a sense of duty to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dresden, George C. Thomas, Jr., was born to Georgia Shannon Thomas, an elementary school teacher, and George C. Thomas, a physician; and

WHEREAS, having attended Greenfield elementary and secondary schools, Mr. Thomas matriculated at the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin, which he attended for two years on a football scholarship; he later graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, he was inducted into the United States Army; he courageously served in the Pacific Theater in New Guinea and the Philippines, participating in several landings on heavily-defended islands as a member of the 112th Cavalry Unit, the only horse Cavalry Unit to serve in World War II; and

WHEREAS, after more than twenty years in the National Guard, Mr. Thomas retired from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, having earned the gratitude of a nation; for his service in the fight for freedom during World War II, he was awarded the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, during his three years overseas in the military, he was appointed to a special court martial, which he served both as prosecutor and defense at various times; it was during this time that he decided to attend law school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas subsequently attended the University of Tennessee College of Law, and shortly after his graduation, he was elected Weakley County Judge in 1950; and

WHEREAS, for eight years, he served dutifully as Weakley County Judge; in such capacity, he earned the admiration of his constituents through his concern for and commitment to progress and growth in Weakley County; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his stellar service, Mr. Thomas was elected President of the Tennessee County Judges Association in 1952; and

WHEREAS, he retired from public service in 1958, at which time he started practicing law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas also served as a Field Representative for Congressman Jere Cooper, and for both of his successors, Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett and Congressman Ed Jones; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas has served his community in countless other capacities, especially as a charter member of the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, the Dresden Elks Lodge, and the Weakley County Country Club; he has also been a member of the Dresden Lions Club for fifty years and he currently serves as President of the Red Cross Association for Weakley County; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, George C. Thomas, Jr., married Sue Irvine in 1946, and to that blessed union were born two sons, George C. Thomas, III, a Professor of Law at Rutgers University, and Thomas Allen Thomas, District Attorney General for Weakley and Obion counties; Sue Irvine died in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas married the former Julia Lovell in March of 1987, and welcomed her son and daughter into his family; the couple is further blessed with three grandchildren, Matthew Thomas and Katelyn and Kevin Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Thomases spend most of their time together golfing, traveling, and just hanging around; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas evinces his great faith as a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he has served on various boards and as a member of the choir; and

WHEREAS, George C. Thomas, Jr., is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend George C. Thomas, Jr., Esquire, for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as an attorney and public servant, congratulate him upon being named Grand Marshal of the Dresden Iris Festival Parade, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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