

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 784
By Tindell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Willie Frank Kirk of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Willie Frank Kirk of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk was devoted to his family and his faith, and he worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Willie Frank Kirk was born August 20, 1941, in Opelika, Alabama, the son of the late Willie B. and Addie Pearl Kirk;

WHEREAS, in early childhood, Willie Frank Kirk moved with his family to Oak Ridge; he grew up in the Scarboro neighborhood and graduated from Oak Ridge High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk served with acumen and alacrity at Union Carbide Nuclear Division, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work until his well deserved retirement at the end of thirty-seven years of commendable service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk enjoyed an active passion for music and was known throughout his community for his love of singing; he was an accomplished guitar and harmonica player; and

WHEREAS, a self-proclaimed "jack of all trades," Mr. Kirk was a consummate handyman who enjoyed his numerous building and repair projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willie Frank Kirk was an active and devout member of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years through his music ministry; and

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

WHEREAS, Willie Frank Kirk enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife of thirty-two years, Brenda; he was the proud father of four daughters, Letonia Armstrong, Sheila Palmer, Tina Kirk, and Tonya Fugate; three sons, Clarence Threat, Michael Gibson, and Travis Kirk; and the grandfather of seventeen adoring grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk is further survived by his three sisters, Dorothy Lewis, Eloise Kirk, and Alberta Cole; two brothers, Roy Kirk and Randy Kirk; two aunts, Callie Summers and Ulene Pitts; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk is also survived by his mother-in-law, Georgia Tarter; three sisters-in-law, Darlene Jennings, Betty Malloy, and Denise Kirk; two brothers-in-law, Frederick Johnson, and Harvey Tarter; two sons-in-law, Joseph Armstrong and Monty Palmer; and one daughter-in-law, Angela Threat; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Kirk is preceded in death by his brother, Jimmie Andrew Kirk; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willie Kirk 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 husband, father, friend, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Willie Frank Kirk, 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. Kirk.

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