

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 671
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Virginia Claire Edwards.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Virginia Claire Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of McKenzie, she was a highly respected member of her community; and

WHEREAS, a well-known civic leader and volunteer, Virginia Edwards retired earlier this year as the Director of Alumni Affairs at Bethel College. Prior to her employment with the college, she served as a volunteer there, coordinating the Phone-a-Thon and assisting in many other valuable capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards was named Carroll Countian of the Year at the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet in September of this year; and

WHEREAS, her record of volunteerism is testimony to her dedication to her community, and the City of McKenzie's annual volunteer award is named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Claire Edwards was involved with the 1969 McKenzie centennial celebration, served as PTA President, belonged to the Morning Glory Club, was a member of the Inglenook Book Club, and donated her time to the Mentor Club; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards was also a member of the Civic and Conservation Committee of the Garden Club, served on the Board of United Neighbors of McKenzie/Carroll County, was a member of the VFW Auxiliary to Post 4939, and served as the President of the Carroll Lake Country Club; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an instrumental force on the McKenzie Planning Commission and the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education for many years, she co-chaired the Cancer Bake Auction in 1975, an event she chaired for the next thirteen years, chaired McKenzie's Tennessee Homecoming '86 celebration, and served on the committee to publish the Carroll County Family History Book in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Claire Edwards was an active and devout member of the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Howard "Rip" Edwards, who preceded her in death, and was the proud mother of Ben Howard, Bill Howard, and Vince Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Claire Edwards leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Virginia Claire Edwards, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Edwards.

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