

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 995
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ralph Barger of Red Bank, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ralph Barger, who was as an outstanding public official of the City of Red Bank and Hamilton County for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, born in Rhea County in 1921, Ralph Barger graduated from Rhea Central High School in 1939; and

WHEREAS, accepting a job with DuPont at their Chattanooga facility in 1950, Ralph Barger served with acumen and alacrity as an employee for thirty-three years and earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to serve his community and his neighbors in their time of need, Mr. Barger served as Chief of the Volunteer State Rescue Squad for twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, humbly offering his time and talents to public service, in 1973, Ralph Barger was elected to the Red Bank City Commission for the first time; ultimately serving twenty-four years, he served as Vice Mayor and Mayor six times; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Barger's many contributions to the City of Red Bank include the opening of the Red Bank football stadium and the beautification of Dayton Boulevard and Morrison Springs Road with crepe myrtle; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Ralph Barger was elected to the Hamilton County Commission for District 1; ultimately serving twelve years, he worked tirelessly to benefit his community and Hamilton County in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, serving as Mayor of Red Bank and Chairman of the County Commission at the same time, the Attorney General of Tennessee ruled that holding both positions was not a violation of state law due to the fact that he received no monetary compensation as mayor; and

WHEREAS, as a Hamilton County Commissioner, Ralph Barger was instrumental in establishing county-wide ambulance service, new fire halls, renovation of the agriculture building, and the paving of roads in the northern section of the county; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades during his lifetime, Ralph Barger received numerous honors and tributes from many groups over the years, including the Hamilton County Education Association, the American Heart Association, Red Bank High School, Red Bank Jr. Miss, Falling Water School, Flat Top Mountain, and WTVC – TV, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, recognized as “Lion of the Decade” and “Lion of the Year” by the Lion’s Club, Mr. Barger was the recipient of over fifty-five plaques and tokens of esteem bestowed by those friends and neighbors throughout Red Bank and Hamilton County he so valiantly served for so many years; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Barger was an active and devout member of the Red Bank Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and president of the Men's Fellowship; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Barger enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife of over sixty years, Margaret Johnson Barger; and

WHEREAS, a considerate and caring gentleman who worked diligently for the greater good for all, Ralph Barger 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 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 Ralph Barger, 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. Barger.

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