

SENATE RESOLUTION 143  
By Bryson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sharon Gayle Huff  
Bagsby of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Freedom Intermediate School teacher Sharon Gayle Huff Bagsby; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Bagsby 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 fixture in the Franklin Special School District, Ms. Bagsby died while tutoring a group of nine students after school; the loss is hard-felt in the district where educators pride themselves on the family atmosphere they keep in a school environment; and

WHEREAS, a Franklin native, Gayle Bagsby was the daughter of the late Sheriff Earl M. "Mutt" Huff and Emma Arms Huff; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Bagsby attended the Franklin Special schools through eighth grade and graduated from Franklin High School; she took her first teaching job with the District in 1972, and for thirty-three years she taught grades four, five, and six; she never saw a child she didn't love, or one she didn't push to achieve; and

WHEREAS, in her youth, Gayle Bagsby was recognized as the cheerful daughter of Sheriff Mutt Huff; she spent a great deal of time at the old Bridge Street jail, where her mother cooked meals for the inmates; and

WHEREAS, as an adult, Ms. Bagsby would often bring comfort food to the school, and was famous for four items: Chicken Divan, pimento cheese, tuna fish, and her chocolate cake with nuts; cooking was her gift of love, and she knew everyone's favorite dish and never forgot a birthday; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bagsby was a tireless advocate for students, especially the ones who needed encouragement; she taught summer school for more than ten years, and also served as

an after-school tutor for many years, receiving the school-level Teacher of the Year honor in 1999; and

WHEREAS, she was always quick to offer help, great at remembering and sharing funny stories, prone to giving nicknames, and shared her culinary concoctions freely; Gayle Bagsby was a friend, a colleague, and a mentor at Freedom Intermediate School, and she leaves behind an indelible legacy of love, friendship, joy, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bagsby was a devout member of Bethesda United Methodist Church, and she was active in her sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Bagsby was deeply devoted to teaching, but her daughter, Betsy Hulsey, was first and foremost in her life; Betsy Hulsey has been a substitute teacher in the District and is nearly finished earning her credentials to follow in her mother's footsteps; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bagsby is survived by her daughter, a sister, and a brother; and

WHEREAS, she found love in everyone, and she loved children, her family, and her friends; Gayle Bagsby had overcome cancer, the loss of her parents, and a divorce, yet her arms were always open – teachers and students often stopped by for their daily hug; 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, that we honor the memory of Sharon Gayle Huff Bagsby, reflecting fondly upon her positive impact on the world around her, 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 and many friends of Sharon Gayle Huff Bagsby.

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