

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

By Curtiss

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Billy C. Rodgers,
longtime Putnam County Commissioner and
county government leader.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Billy C. Rodgers, longtime Putnam County Commissioner and outstanding county government leader; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers was a highly regarded public servant who dedicated himself to improving the quality of life of his fellow citizens and who exhibited the greatest integrity in all of his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers devoted his entire professional career to the service of county governments across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers began his public service career in 1968 when he joined the County Audit Division of the State Comptroller's office as an auditor, where he became proficient in the principles of governmental accounting and in the conduct of business in Tennessee county governments; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers joined the University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service in 1974 as a county government consultant, in which position he used his vast knowledge to provide expert technical assistance to the counties in the Upper Cumberland region for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers received the designation of Certified Government Financial Manager, a designation awarded to professionals by the Association of Government Accountants based upon education, experience, and ethics attainments in governmental accounting; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exemplary public service as a county government consultant, Billy C. Rodgers received the Robert S. Hutchison Outstanding Public Service Professional Award in 1981 and the Outstanding Customer Service Award in 2005 from the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers was elected to the Putnam County Commission in 1978 by the people of the 8th District of Putnam County, and he served the citizens of Putnam County with great distinction for over 28 years; during his illustrious tenure with the Putnam County Commission, Commissioner Rodgers served as Chairman of the County Commission, Chairman of the Budget Committee, and Chairman of the Fiscal Review Committee, as well as serving on numerous other committees; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rodgers was an active member of the Tennessee County Commissioners' Association, serving on its Board of Directors for many years as well as serving as its President, and was an active member of the Tennessee County Services Association, in which capacities he served county governments across the State of Tennessee to the great benefit of all of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, Billy C. Rodgers was actively involved in his community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and on numerous other boards, committees, and commissions over his many years of service; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rodgers received numerous awards, commendations, and other recognitions for his many accomplishments, including the Soaring Eagle Award from the American Legion Boys' State; and n

WHEREAS, a 1962 graduate of Upperman High School, Billy C. Rodgers proved instrumental in the construction of the current Upperman High School facility, which opened in 2003 and which is daily enjoyed by students and teachers alike; in honor of Commissioner Rodgers's lifetime of service to his community, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Upperman High School dedicated the high school's football field in Mr. Rodgers's name; and

WHEREAS, for over thirty years, Billy C. Rodgers held the banner high in county government, having been well known and highly respected throughout Tennessee for his forthright attitude and his accountability to the people he represented and served; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rodgers contributed to the growth of Putnam County and the surrounding counties while improving the quality of life for all people, standing up for what he believed even if it meant standing alone; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his professional achievements, Billy C. Rodgers was devoted to his wife of forty-two years, Rita Cheryl Garrison; his four children, Melody Ann Rodgers Peace, Lucinda Gaye Rodgers McCloud, Christal Leigh Rodgers, and Charles Winston Rodgers; and his three beloved grandchildren, Colin Ryan Peace, Nathaniel Lucas Peace, and Celeste Noel Peace; and

WHEREAS, the rock of the Rodgers family, Billy C. Rodgers greatest passion was his love for his family and friends, which love was like no other. His safe smile, his active laugh, and his open ear provided comfort and dependability for his family; he found joy in spending time with his grandchildren, solace in taking walks with his brother on Turkey Hollow Road, and pleasure in being a spectator of Upperman High School sports; and

WHEREAS, the friends and family of Billy C. Rodgers will be forever grateful for having known his wit and wisdom, his quiet demeanor, his kind and helpful nature, and his steadfast leadership; and

WHEREAS, although the untimely death of Billy C. Rodgers on June 14, 2006, left an immense void, his many accomplishments during his lifetime of service will benefit the citizens of Tennessee for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and passionate human being who has had such an enormous impact on the citizens of this State and upon all who knew him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Billy C. Rodgers, reflecting fondly upon his meritorious career, his exemplary public service, his love of life, and his commitment to the people of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Rodgers.

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