

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 220

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Theodore "Ted"
Testerman of Bristol, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Theodore W. "Ted" Testerman; and

WHEREAS, Ted Testerman 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, a resident of Bristol for more than fifty years, Mr. Testerman was a highly respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as owner of Blakley-Mitchell Men's Clothing, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman started his employment at Blakley-Mitchell on State Street more than half a century ago as a salesman for the store; by 1964, he was the sole owner and worked there every day, even after he handed over the store to his son; and

WHEREAS, even in his later years, Ted Testerman came to the store every day, sat in his same chair, read the newspaper, and chatted with the customers and salesmen; and

WHEREAS, his passion for the clothing business equaled that of his passion for politics; a member of the Republican Party, Mr. Testerman was the longest serving member on the Sullivan County Election Commission, having served since 1974; and

WHEREAS, he was an early backer of Jimmy Quillen, who in 1962 was elected to the first of sixteen terms representing Northeast Tennessee as its congressman; and

WHEREAS, Ted Testerman shook hands with every Republican president and presidential nominee from Dwight Eisenhower to George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, he also lent his time and talents as the president of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and as a member of both the Bristol Jaycees and the Kiwanis Club of Bristol; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also a veteran of the United States Army and bravely served in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kyle's Ford, Ted Testerman was the son of the late Hugh Kyle and Lochiel Webb Testerman; he was also preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Kyle Jarvis and Sarah Helen Saulsbury; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-five years, Emma Greene Testerman, and was the proud father of sons, Hugh E. Testerman, and William E. "Bill" Testerman; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by five grandchildren, Hugh Testerman, Jr., Lyndsey Testerman, Emily Testerman, Sarah Testerman, and Teddy Testerman; a brother, George E. Testerman; a brother-in-law, James Saulsbury; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Theodore W. Testerman, 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. Testerman.

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