

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 930

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles T. Eblen.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles T. Eblen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eblen 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 longtime resident of Lenoir City, Charles Eblen graduated from Lenoir City High School in 1942 and attended Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eblen, a member of this nation's greatest generation, answered the call of duty and entered the United States Army to serve in World War II with the 105th Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from his honorable military service to our nation, Charles Eblen attended Cumberland University, where he earned a law degree in 1947; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Mr. Eblen took employment with the State Department of Finance and Taxation in Knoxville in 1947, and then began practicing law in Lenoir City in 1951; and

WHEREAS, a committed public servant, Mr. Eblen represented his community as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1955 and 1956 and as a member of the Tennessee State Senate in 1959 and 1960; and

WHEREAS, the longest serving mayor in Lenoir City's history, Charles Eblen led the city in that capacity from 1976 to 1987, 1989 to 1991, and again from 1993 to 2001. As mayor, he performed vital public roles such as chairman of the Lenoir City Utilities Board and chairman of the Lenoir City School Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his diligent efforts in public office, Mr. Eblen also participated in such worthy community organizations as Lenoir City Civitan International, of which he was a member for more than fifty years, and also served as director of Suntrust Bank; and

WHEREAS, Charles Eblen was an active and devout member of Trinity United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years on the Administrative Board and the Board of Trustees; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of forty-four years, Bobby G. Eblen; his daughters and their spouses, Lee and Mitch Ledbetter and Abby Eblen and Rick Blahauvietz; his grandchildren, Charlie Ledbetter, Benjamin Blahauvietz, and Hailey Blahauvietz; several nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Jack Randolph; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eblen was preceded in death by his parents, James and Lena Eblen, his brother and sister-in-law, James and Grace Eblen, and his sister, Ruth Gaut; and

WHEREAS, Charles Eblen 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 Charles T. Eblen, 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. Eblen.

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