

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1416

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Boggs of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Boggs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boggs 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, Thomas Boggs served with acumen and alacrity as the Chief Executive Officer of the seven-restaurant Huey's chain and as a partner in the Half Shell Restaurants, Tsunami, Folks Folly, and the Prime Cut Shoppe, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers, employees, and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his forthright approach to public outreach; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wynne, Arkansas, he moved to Memphis at the age of seven; dedicated from an early age to the importance of hard work, he began working for Davis Rexall at fourteen years of age and graduated from Central High School before attending and graduating from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a talented and enthusiastic musician, Tommy Boggs played in several bands, including Tommy Burk and the Counts, Flash, the Board of Directors, and the Box Tops; and

WHEREAS, after earning a degree in history, he worked for the T.G.I.Friday's Corporation, first as a waiter and later in the company's corporate offices; this experience laid the foundation for his future success at Huey's; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boggs began working at Huey's as a bartender, but quickly rose to become a member of management; two years later, he became a partner in the bar, whereupon

he began developing the menu which would transform Huey's from a bar into the successful restaurant it is today; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Boggs worked tirelessly to cultivate the Huey's name and, after several years of hard work and sterling service to his customers, established the franchise as a Memphis institution; and

WHEREAS, over the years, his restaurant garnered many awards, including a number of "Best Burger" awards from *Memphis Magazine* and the "Best Pub Grub" and "Best Beer Selection" awards in the *Memphis Magazine's* Readers Restaurant Poll; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply involved in the restaurant industry, serving as a past president of the Memphis Restaurant Association, which recognized him as the 2007 recipient of its Civic and Community Leadership Award and as the recipient of the association's highest award, the Newt Hardin Award, and in his community, providing guidance and leadership to a number of fundraisers, including raising more than twenty thousand dollars to establish the Zoo Rendezvous at the Memphis Zoo; and

WHEREAS, his civic involvement included service as a board member and past President of the Memphis Zoological Society, as Treasurer of the Aloysius Home, as the Food and Beverage Co-Chair of the Blues Ball, as Chairman of the Memphis Convention and Visitor's Bureau, as the 2001 Vice President and 2002 President of Memphis in May, as the Past President of the Advisory Board of the Food Bank, a participant in the Leadership Memphis program, and as an organizer of the annual golf tournament fundraiser for the Church Health Center; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was given the Jefferson Award in 2002 by the American Institute for Public Service in recognition of his outstanding community and public service, the 2002 College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumnus Award by the University of Memphis, and the True Blue Tiger Award by National Executive Board of Directors of the University of Memphis Alumni Association in recognition of his role in creating tradition within the university; and

WHEREAS, an entrepreneur of the highest caliber, Mr. Boggs established the Huey's Corporation Scholarship at the University of Memphis and was inducted in the Halls of Fame of

the Society of Entrepreneurs, the Memphis City Schools, and the Tennessee Restaurant Association; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Boggs 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, Wight Fulton Boggs, and was the proud father of Ashley Boggs Williams, Lauren Boggs McHugh, Samantha Boggs Dean, Alexander Edward Boggs, and John Fulton Boggs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boggs will be sorely missed by his five grandchildren, his brothers, Richard Boggs and Robert Earl Boggs, and his sister, Mary Ellen Smith; and

WHEREAS, he 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 Thomas Boggs, 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. Boggs.

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