

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 758

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernie L. Simms of
Nashville.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Simms 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 talented musician and prolific songwriter, Ernie Simms began his foray into the musical field at the tender age of eight and wrote over 500 songs during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simms bravely answered the call of duty to defend this country and valiantly served as a member of the U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the military, Ernie Simms not only continued his musical pursuits, he also became a radio host, a position he would retain for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, a kind and benevolent person who was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, Mr. Simms selflessly gave of himself to help our country's homeless veterans, and he was honored with the title of Colonel of the State by the State of Kentucky for all of his efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Simms rendered invaluable service as Entertainment Chairman for "Stand Down," a yearly program produced for a Nashville community access channel that assists homeless veterans in obtaining clothing, housing, and employment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simms was also the talented producer of *Pickin-n-Nashville* and *Nashville Onstage*, in addition to his stellar work at the VA Hospital in Murfreesboro as an insurance verifier, where he continued to help veterans by visiting and befriending the patients on his breaks; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Simms enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Debbie, who was his partner in life in every sense of the word; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Simms 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Ernie L. Simms, 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 deepest sympathy and offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Ernie Simms.

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