

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1023

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Emmy Lou Whitehead of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Emmy Lou Whitehead; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitehead was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a 1956 graduate of Emory University, Emmy Lou Whitehead earned a Master's Degree in Special Education from Memphis State University in 1978 with a Doctorate of Education from Memphis State in 1984; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, she uniformly served with acumen and alacrity and earned the respect of her peers, students, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; she served in many important posts, including as a teacher and program coordinator for the Jackson Center for Enrichment and Development from 1970 to 1981 and as an Assistant Professor of Education at Lambuth University from 1987 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitehead also served as Director of Christian Education at Forest Heights United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church in Griffin, Georgia, and as a consultant in special education for the Lexington Public Schools Center for Enrichment and the Jackson Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmy Lou Whitehead further served her fellow Christians as a certified laboratory leader for United Methodist Church in the fields of mental retardation, the junior high age level, and the high school age level; and

WHEREAS, she expertly wrote *"Guidelines for Training Adults Who Work with Mentally Retarded"* for the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, an integral contributor to the advancement of her profession and her community and dedicated to helping those with mental retardation and disabilities, she served as an officer for the STAR Center for mentally and physically challenged children and adults, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Hannah's Hope Adoption Agency, the Forest Heights United Methodist Church, the Effective Advocacy for Citizens with Handicaps, and the Jackson-Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens; she was also a member of the American Association on Mental Retardation, the Association for the Severely Handicapped, the Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, and the Council for Exceptional Children; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Whitehead was honored as the 1981 Educator of the Year to the Handicapped in Tennessee and received WJAK radio station's 1974 Action Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Life of the Community of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Emmy Lou Whitehead was an active and devout member of the Forest Heights United Methodist Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitehead was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Emmy Lou Whitehead was preceded in death by her parents, Royal Fred and Flossie Lee Arnold Sessions; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her loving husband, Brady Whitehead, Jr.; her daughters, Kathy Whitehead and Diana and her husband, Rev. Tom Pierce; her grandson, Christopher Pierce; her brother, Tom Sessions; her sister-in-law, Violet Walker; her four nieces; and her two nephews; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitehead leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 Dr. Emmy Lou Whitehead, reflecting fondly upon

her impeccable character as an educator and civic leader and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction as a Christian.

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

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