

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 508

By Lollar

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Charles E. "Bub" Cole for a lifetime of meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts, have sought to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens and who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Charles E. "Bub" Cole, who has devoted his time and energy to improving the quality of life for his fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Bub Cole was born to Clifton E. Cole and Jessie L. Embry Cole on October 24, 1928, and he attended Poplar Grove Grammar School in his youth; and

WHEREAS, before graduating from Munford High School, he spent a year working on the Mississippi River as a member of a barge crew; and

WHEREAS, from 1950 until 1952, Mr. Cole boldly served his country during the Korean War as a member of the United States Army; a brave and highly skilled soldier, Bub Cole rose to the rank of Master Sergeant before he was honorably discharged and returned home to help his family at their sawmill; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from Korea, Bub Cole asked Mary Cousar to become his beloved wife, and to this blessed union were born three sons, Charles E. Cole, Jr., William C. "Billy" Cole, and Chris E. Cole; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Cole and his three brothers together incorporated the Cole Lumber Company, and he currently stands as its President; thirty years later, the brothers

formed a holding company, Cole Incorporated, which consists of Cole Lumber Company, Cole Cabinet and Construction Company, Camellia Homes, and Cole Heights; and

WHEREAS, a community leader who devotes his time and energies to a variety of civic and community causes, Bub Cole has served on the Board of Directors of InSouth Bank, formerly Union Savings Bank, since 1983; and

WHEREAS, he was singularly responsible for getting Marcless Sneed appointed to the Board of Directors for the bank; as a result, Mr. Sneed became the first African-American member of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Cole was selected to be a member of the Tennessee Housing and Development Agency Board, on which he served with acumen and alacrity for several years; during the 1990s, he also stood on the Advisory Boards for the University of Tennessee at Martin (UT-Martin) and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UT-Knoxville); and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Cole's astute service to these collegiate boards, he and his brothers endowed the first Honors Scholarship Fund at UT-Martin; because of Bub and Mary Cole's dedication to the University and due to their substantial endowment, a room was named in their honor; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, Bub and Mary Cole have showed their dedication to UT-Knoxville by never missing a home football game; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and awards, Bub Cole was named "Man of the Year" of South Tipton County in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cole is a faithful and active member of Poplar Grove United Methodist Church; during the pastorate of Reverent Leo Gray, the first and second phases of the magnificent church sanctuary were completed by the Cole Lumber Company; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Cole is quick to count his blessings, listing among them his wife, his good friends, faithful customers, and his family; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud and doting grandfather of six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, each of whom is the apple of his eye; and

WHEREAS, known for his personal mantra, "I have to do it all. Won't nobody work but me," Bub Cole epitomizes the man who lives in the house by the side of the road and is a friend to all mankind; and

WHEREAS, he has devoted himself to improving the quality of life for those around him, and he should be specially recognized for a lifetime of achievement and dedicated service to the citizens of this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Charles E. "Bub" Cole for his many professional achievements, honor him for his considerable contributions to his community and to this State, and extend to him our best wishes for every success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

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