

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 738

By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Samuel Thomas, Sr.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas 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 native of Clarksville and educated in the Montgomery County Public School System, Samuel Thomas, Sr. was the first born son of the late Sanford and Precious Jewell Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was a member of America's Greatest Generation and served his country bravely in the United States Navy during World War II; after returning home to Clarksville, Mr. Thomas continued this patriotic tradition and served in management for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and as a member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, possessing the rare ability to transform a vision into a dynamic business achievement, Samuel Thomas, Sr. listened to his entrepreneurial spirit and founded and successfully operated his own janitorial service and supply company, and, ever the devoted husband, assisted his wife in pursuing her dream of opening of a restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas bravely served with acumen and alacrity as police officer for the City of Clarksville, in which position he earned the respect of his peers, superiors, and the public alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas first called upon the name of the Lord and united his membership with the Boiling Springs Baptist Church at a young age before later joining the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, which he served for many years as an active and devout member; after moving with his beloved wife, Shirley, to Houston in order to be closer to their

children, Mr. Thomas was ordained as a deacon and united with the Bible Fellowship Baptist Church before finishing his exemplary deacon ministry with the Victory Temple Baptist Church; and

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

WHEREAS, Samuel Thomas, Sr. was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Sanford and Precious Jewell Thomas; his sisters, Ora Mae Thomas Wardell and Daisy Thomas; and his brother, Buford "Pete" Thomas; and James "Peter Jim" Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas is survived by his loving wife of fifty-seven years, Shirley Thomas; his sons and daughters-in-law, Samuel and Charlotte Thomas, Sandy and Miriam Thomas, and Stacey and Mary Thomas; his daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Andre Smith; his sister, Essie D. Harris; his sisters-in-law, Bertha Clardy Scott, Francis Clardy Quarles, and Wanda Joyce Clardy; his brothers-in-law, Homer Russell Clardy and Henry Wayne Clardy; eleven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Thomas, Sr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all 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 SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Samuel Thomas, Sr., 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 Samuel Thomas, Sr.

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