

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 851

By West

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County in honor of the late Chris Levering.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who, during their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Christopher Keith Levering, who was a capable and innovative leader in the tourism industry for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Chris Levering and his bother, Dennis, founded Country & Western Round-Up Tours, operating out of their father's motel in a station wagon and providing only two tours per day; and

WHEREAS, the Levering Brothers expanded their business over the years, and in 1989, they purchased the Gray Line Tour franchise for Nashville, thus beginning a new era in sightseeing as they bravely entered the charter tour business; and

WHEREAS, under their capable stewardship, Gray Line was operating sixty-five coaches and buses and employing 150 people by 2002, and offering sightseeing tours, airport shuttle service, receptive service, casino service, and charter services; and

WHEREAS, by 2009, the Leverings had utilized their business acumen to expand Gray Line's fleet to seventy-eight coaches and buses, and the company employed more than 240 people; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in the tourism industry, Chris Levering served with distinction on the American Bus Association Board, United Motor Coach 2000, International Motor Coach Travel Board, Gray Line Worldwide Board, and as President and board member of the Tennessee Motor Coach Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Chris Levering was named Nashville Volunteer of the Year by the Convention and Visitors Bureau; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2009, Chris Levering passed from this world to a far better existence after battling cancer for nearly a year, leaving behind to cherish his memory his wife, Patty Levering; his children and their spouses, Alicia and Trey Carico, Kristin Levering, and Taylor and Paula Levering; and four wonderful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of a trusted friend, Chris Levering has left behind an enduring legacy of professionalism in the tourism industry, in addition to his family, friends, and colleagues who loved him dearly and now miss him greatly; 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 the bridge spanning Briley Parkway (State Route 155) on McGavock Pike in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County is hereby designated the "Chris Levering Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to one of the finest citizens this state has ever known.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving clause as the "Chris Levering Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from

non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.