

HOUSE RESOLUTION 243

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Franklin Sams of Erwin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert "Bob" Franklin Sams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sams 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 Erwin, Bob Sams was the son of Frank and Nell Sams, who preceded him in death; he was a man of integrity who embodied the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, while attending Unicoi County High School, Bob Sams displayed his tremendous athletic prowess while excelling in basketball and baseball; furthering his education, he graduated from East Tennessee State University where he also lettered in basketball and baseball; and

WHEREAS, he spent a long, distinguished, and illustrious career with CSX Railroad, serving with the utmost character and probity as Assistant to the General Manager and earning the admiration of his colleagues and supervisors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement from the railroad, Mr. Sams began a successful second career in real estate with ReMax Checkmate Realtors, gaining the respect and trust of his clients with his strong sense of integrity and real estate acumen; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, Bob Sams lent his time and energies to a number of civic and community organizations, dedicating to each his coveted leadership style; he was past president of the Erwin Little League, past president of the Erwin Jaycees, past president of the Erwin Civitan Club, past president of the Erwin Kiwanis Club, former chairman and board member of the Unicoi County Memorial Hospital Board of Control, board member of

the YMCA Board of Directors, and he served on the Unicoi County Board of Education for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, as a Master Mason for fifty years, he also held membership in the noble society of Freemasons, Centennial Lodge 491, Jericho Shrine Temple, and Unicoi Shrine Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sams was an active and devout member of Erwin Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully as an elder for many years; and

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

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Joan Rule Sams, for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sams was the proud and loving father of Pam Sims and husband, Mike; Bob Sams and wife, Karen; and Scott Sams; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren, Jeff Clark and wife, Lindsey; Chris Clark; and Stephanie Sams; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his brother-in-law, Jim Rule and wife, Susan; his nieces Courtney R. Williams and Judi Tiller; his nephew, Joe Miller; along with a host of family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his loving sister, Sue Sams Miller; and

WHEREAS, Robert Franklin Sams 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Robert Franklin Sams, 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 Robert Franklin Sams.

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