

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 378

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Pitts, Sr., of
Memphis.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts 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, Mr. Pitts worked with acumen and alacrity as an independent insurance agent, in which position he earned the admiration and respect of his colleagues and clients alike for his exceptional ability and expertise; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mr. Pitts was a man of integrity who embodied the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts heroically and honorably served in the United States Army in Germany during World War II; and

WHEREAS, a graduate from South Side High School, Mr. Pitts earned his degree in business from Memphis State College; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, pursuing his keen entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Pitts and fellow insurance agent, Mat Lipscomb, Jr., founded Lipscomb and Pitts Insurance, and through hard work and dedication, they built the company into one of the most recognized and respected independent insurance agencies in the region; and

WHEREAS, also a former President and State National Director of Insurors of Tennessee, John Pitts was known for his unquestionable integrity, strong work ethic, solid workmanship, sound business practices, and unwavering ability to overcome any challenge, qualities which garnered him a sterling reputation; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, he won several awards for his many contributions to the insurance industry including, Insuror of the Year in 1979 and 1980, the Carnival Memphis Pathfinder Award in 1994, the Cook Halle Award in 2004, and he was inducted into the Tennessee Insurance Hall of Fame in 2005; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, John Pitts, Sr., volunteered his time and energies to a number of civic organizations, including serving on the Executive Board of the Local Boy Scout Council and as a founding member and officer of the Northeast Memphis Optimist Club; and

WHEREAS, an Eagle Scout himself, his dedication to the Boy Scouts was unparalleled while serving as an assistant scoutmaster, the district chairman, and the Eagle Scout board of review chairman. Recognizing his distinguished service to the Boy Scouts, he was honored with the prestigious Silver Beaver Award; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his beloved wife, Pat Pitts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts was the proud and loving father of Johnny Robert Pitts, Linda Weih, and Janie Henderson; and

WHEREAS, his legacy will also be fondly remembered by his grandchildren, step-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and loved ones; 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 SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Pitts, 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 Mr. Pitts.

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