

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 659

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Eleanora Driver Overbey of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Eleanora Driver Overbey, known affectionately to her family and friends as “Lovey”; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-seven years, Mrs. Overbey served as a Professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; in the British literature and creative writing courses she taught, the power of her intellect, her enthusiasm for her subject, and the warmth of her humanity inspired students to engage their studies with joy as well as rigor; and

WHEREAS, in the words of one of her students, “Mrs. Overbey had a way of explaining things that was unique and could turn an otherwise boring story into something magical”; and

WHEREAS, born in Baltimore on July 14, 1935, Eleanora Overbey was the daughter of a lawyer in the United States Attorney General’s Lands Division, and when his daughter was twelve, he moved his family to Hawaii, where he was assigned to acquire land for the federal government; this was one of the highlights of Mrs. Overbey’s childhood; and

WHEREAS, following high school, Mrs. Overbey chose to attend Randolph Macon Women’s College because of its excellent academic reputation and the friendliness of its students; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Lynchburg, Mrs. Overbey achieved great success, winning election to Phi Beta Kappa and, upon graduation, a Phillip Francis duPont Scholarship to the University of Virginia; she also received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in England for a year; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 1958, Eleanora Driver married James M. Overbey, and both continued to attend the University of Virginia for a year after their nuptials, living on Mrs.

Overbey's duPont Scholarship funds; nine women had begun the Master of Arts program with Mrs. Overbey, and when she graduated she was one of only three women earning the degree; and

WHEREAS, she began her twenty-seven-year teaching career at UT-Knoxville in 1970; when she retired, the Overbeys traveled the world, learning about different cultures and traditions, and the couple made countless friends along the way; and

WHEREAS, Eleanora Overbey was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband of nearly fifty-one years; her sons and daughters-in-law, Warren M. and Caryn H. Overbey, Daniel D. and Kimberly B. Overbey, and James M. Jr., and Katherine G. Overbey; and her six grandchildren, Elizabeth Carlisle, Caroline McLeod, Daniel Bittle, Juliana Hutchinson, Prescott Beatty, and Katherine Millner; and

WHEREAS, she will also be sorely missed by her brother and sister-in-law, Wilmer H. Jr., and Nancy N. Driver; her sister-in-law, Barbara C. Overbey; her nieces and nephews, J. William Overbey, Susan O. Davidson, Rebecca W. Overbey, Nancy D. Reynolds, Penny D. Lackey, and Sarah D. Jenkins; and a very special favorite aunt, Susan Driver Cook; and

WHEREAS, Eleanora Overbey leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional educator 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 Eleanora Driver Overbey, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Overbey.

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