

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 937

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Autumn Ford Jennings.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Autumn Ford Jennings; and

WHEREAS, Autumn Jennings was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her students and her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jennings served as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Meadowview Middle School, and she garnered recognition as the Meadowview Middle School Teacher of the Year and the Hamblen County District Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, born in Greenville, South Carolina, Mrs. Jennings graduated from Salem High School as the valedictorian, graduated with honors from the University of South Carolina, earned a Master of Arts degree in ESL Instruction and a Ed.S. in Educational Administration from the University of Tennessee, where she maintained a 4.0 grade point average; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work in education, Autumn Jennings had an unquenchable thirst for world travel; and

WHEREAS, during her time abroad, she volunteered at an orphanage in Haiti, taught new educators under a tree in 110-degree heat in South Sudan, and taught English language learners in China; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian throughout her life, Mrs. Jennings truly demonstrated the value of community service and volunteered her time and energies towards helping those in need, including serving as a Team Leader on a United Methodist mission trip to South Sudan; and

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

WHEREAS, her memory will be forever cherished by her husband, Will Jennings, her daughters, Rory Jennings and Arianna Jennings, her mother, Pam Ford, her brothers, Boyd Ford and Scott Ford, and her in-laws, Ben and Merry Jennings; and

WHEREAS, Autumn Jennings 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 SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Autumn Ford Jennings, 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. Jennings.

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