

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 104

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bill Sergeant of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Bill Sergeant 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. Sergeant served proudly and with valor and distinction in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, he served for two years as a military chief of police in Puerto Rico before moving to Oak Ridge, also known as the Secret City, in 1944, as a captain in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, in Oak Ridge, Bill Sergeant was assigned by the Manhattan Project team to be in command of the 1,000 armed guards, civilian police, and 200 military police responsible for the physical protection of the four wartime facilities located in the Secret City; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Mr. Sergeant was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel of Oak Ridge's Engineer Combat Battalion, and served in Korea during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sergeant returned to Oak Ridge from Korea with a Bronze Star. Upon his return, he was placed in charge of local security for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, then for the Energy Research and Development Agency, and eventually for the U.S. Department of Energy, before he retired in 1979; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement, Bill Sergeant began a career as a leader in Rotary International (RI). As a vice president and trustee of RI and chairman of the International

PolioPlus Committee, Mr. Sergeant became known worldwide for his efforts to eliminate polio globally; and

WHEREAS, affectionately referred to as “Mr. Rotary,” Bill Sergeant also served with acumen and alacrity as president of the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge; as district governor for RI District 678, which is now District 6780; and he twice served as chair for RI’s Council on Legislation and attended the meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, Bill Sergeant 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bill Sergeant, 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 loved ones of Mr. Sergeant.

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