

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 110

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Thomas Kelsey of Collierville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James Thomas Kelsey of Collierville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelsey 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, as part of the fifth generation of Kelseys to wisely make the Collierville community his home, James Kelsey was born on February 17, 1919, to his loving parents, Mattie Jim McDonald Kelsey and Hardin Franklin Kelsey; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelsey graduated from Collierville High School in 1936, where, because of his natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, he was elected Class President as well as Captain of both the football and basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished athlete with a lifelong passion for sports, James Kelsey enthusiastically pursued his interest by refereeing high school football and avidly following the athletic accomplishments of his sons and grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelsey served with acumen and alacrity as a realtor and land developer, in which capacity he earned the respect and admiration of his clients and colleagues alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, an astute and conscientious businessman, Mr. Kelsey also lent his time and business expertise to several family businesses, such as Kelsey Chevrolet and Kelsey Brothers Store; and

WHEREAS, James Kelsey was a dedicated civic leader who distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with numerous organizations,

including the Rotary Club; Collierville Volunteer Fire Department; Mason Lodge no 152, F&AM; and Collierville Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Kelsey was a lifelong member of the Collierville Methodist Church, where he selflessly served as a Methodist youth counselor and expertly taught men's Bible studies; and

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

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his son, James Kelsey, Jr., and his brothers, Hardin Franklin Kelsey, Jr., and Dr. Richard Forrest Kelsey; and

WHEREAS, James Kelsey enjoyed the love and companionship of his wife and high school sweetheart, Elizabeth Carrington Kelsey, with whom he enjoyed seventy-one years of martial bliss; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelsey was the proud father of William M. and Robert C. Kelsey and father-in-law of Judy, Kay, and Rachel Kelsey; and

WHEREAS, James Kelsey will also be sorely missed by his sister, Virginia Kelsey Carrington; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of friends, family, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelsey 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 James Thomas Kelsey, 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. Kelsey.

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