

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 442

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Amon Carter Evans of Henry County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Amon Carter Evans, an accomplished businessman, dedicated community leader, and the esteemed former owner and publisher of *The Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, Amon Carter Evans 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, the son of a newspaper man, Amon Carter Evans was born on August 4, 1933, to Silliman and Lucile McCrea Evans; his family purchased *The Tennessean* in 1937 and his father, Silliman Evans, Sr., served as publisher; and

WHEREAS, called to serve his country, Amon Carter Evans proudly served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1959 to 1961 and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, Amon Evans was named chief executive officer of *The Tennessean* in 1961 and publisher in 1962, and he, in turn, named John Sigenthaler as editor in 1962; the pair would lead the newspaper through the 1960s and champion progressive issues such as civil rights and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, a staunch supporter of the First Amendment, Amon Carter Evans in his capacity as President of Newspaper Printing Corporation, was considered an old-fashioned publisher who used his newspaper to promote community welfare, and he made a significant contribution to the growth and prosperity we enjoy in Nashville and the State of Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Amon Evans stepped back from the publishing industry and sold *The Tennessean* to the Gannett newspaper chain and then purchased and undertook the

restoration and renovation of the legendary "Rattle and Snap" Plantation in Columbia, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, respected and admired for his expertise and his ability to achieve his goals no matter how great the obstacles that confronted him, Amon Carter Evans was called on by four Governors of Tennessee to lead various programs and projects for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1980s, Amon Carter Evans rendered sterling service as the Chairman of the Capitol Restoration Executive Committee and provided leadership in the tremendous renovation of the State Capitol building, making it, once again, a lovely, graceful building of which all Tennesseans can be proud; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Bicentennial Commission, Amon Carter Evans also ably served twenty years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee and was honored by the National Governors Association in 1987 for his outstanding service to state government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Evans retired to Henry County, where his family has owned property for more than fifty years, and continued to give of his time and talents to the local community, serving as Chairman and a Commissioner of the Springville Utility District and leading a task force at the request of the Henry County Mayor to search for affordable, abundant, and clean water sources for the community; and

WHEREAS, Amon Evans was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church in Paris, Tennessee, which he served faithfully for many years as Vice President of the Church Council, member of the Finance Committee and formerly as Trustee; and

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

WHEREAS, preceded in death by a daughter, Janet Evans, and a son, Amon Carter "Ace" Evans, Jr., Amon Carter Evans is survived by his wife, Denise Bacon Evans, and his children, Ann Wheeler, Deborah Davis, Sarah Evans, Eric Evans, and Andrew Evans; a step-daughter Amy Cook; two step-sons, David Courtney and Chris Courtney; thirteen grandchildren and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Amon Carter Evans 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, human being, and true Tennessee gentleman; 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 Amon Carter Evans, 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 Amon Carter Evans.

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