

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 531

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert J. "Bob" Davis,
Sr. of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert J. "Bob" Davis, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life and well being of his fellow citizens of Blount County in a multiplicity of ways; and

WHEREAS, Bob Davis was an educator, a farmer, a defender of Americans' freedoms, a civic volunteer, a government leader, political advisor and a family man – all roles he valued and performed with acumen and alacrity, earning him the respect of his peers, colleagues, and neighbors alike for the exemplary quality of his countless contributions to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was born in the Prospect community of Blount County on November 30, 1923 and spent his early years working alongside his father, Joe Davis, on the family farm; and

WHEREAS, a member of the United States Army from 1944-46 and a part of our greatest generation, Bob Davis served during World War II in the European Theatre of Operation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis returned from the war to Tennessee and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and subsequently earned his Masters of Education degree from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he was fortunate to return to his alma mater, Everett High School, first teaching history and then serving as principal from 1958 until the time of the school's closing in 1977; at the time of his hiring, Mr. Davis had the distinction of being the youngest principal in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Davis won election as Blount County's seventh County Executive, with his tenure marked as a time of great economic development and jobs creation for Blount County with major corporations such as DENSO and Rubbermaid opening facilities in the county; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was an active and devout member of Maryville First Baptist Church, where he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and Sunday school teacher; and

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

WHEREAS, joined in holy matrimony in May 1953, Mr. Davis treasured the loving companionship of his bride Lula Belle Eggers and was the proud parent of three wonderful children, Sharon Freeman, Rebecca Stegmann, and Bob Jr.; and true to his memory are his six grandchildren and five great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Davis, Sr. 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 Robert J. "Bob" Davis, Sr., 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 Robert J. "Bob" Davis, Sr.

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