

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 762

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Allen Richardson Jr. of Maury County, former member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague, William Allen Richardson, Jr., who ably served as a member of both the House of Representatives and Senate during his long and distinguished career of public service; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary businessman, minister and public servant, William Allen "Bill" Richardson, Jr. worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, born in Culleoka, Maury County, on March 20, 1932, William Allen "Bill" Richardson, Jr. was the son of William Allen and Alvy Grace (Holt) Richardson; he attended elementary and secondary schools in Maury County and received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1954 from Tennessee Technological University and his Master of Arts degree from Harding University Graduate School of Religion in 1961; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Tennessee Tech in 1954, he entered the United States Army with the rank of Second Lieutenant and served from 1955 to 1958, receiving a promotion to First Lieutenant before being honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, stationed in Korea during his military service during which he served as a Company Commander, Mr. Richardson became concerned over the impoverished conditions that existed following the Korean War and was asked by a missionary to stay and help with the relief work; and

WHEREAS, he asked his wife, Peggy Ashburn Richardson, to join him in Korea, and the young couple worked as missionaries there from 1958 to 1971; he served as a professor at

Korean Christian College, teaching Old Testament theology and, as needed, serving as Dean of the college; and

WHEREAS, he aided the Korean people in any capacity he could, and Mr. Richardson's efforts were highlighted in a Korean newspaper profile that told the story of how he helped a thief who asked for forgiveness after his release from prison with housing, food, and even doctor's fees in battling tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, a member of the board of directors for the Korean Christian Education Fund, Mr. Richardson received a commendation from the Korean Army for Promotion of Better Korean-American Relationships and a commendation from the government of Korea for Service to Korean Orphans; and

WHEREAS, returning to Tennessee in 1971, the Richardsons settled in the Culleoka community of Maury County where he became a highly successful self-employed land surveyor and began his thirty-two year ministry as pastor of Ostella Church of Christ in Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, Bill Richardson learned the responsibilities of elected office from his father, William Allen Richardson, Sr., who served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1953 to 1974, as a member of the 79th through the 88th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Representative Richardson, Sr., had won the primary yet again for election to the 89th General Assembly, but passed away suddenly prior to the general election in November. Picking up the mantle of leadership, Bill Richardson, Jr. won his father's seat by a write-in vote in the general election and adroitly served the citizens of Maury and Hickman Counties, which comprised House District 64, from 1975 to 1983; and

WHEREAS, his constituency expanded to include Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, and Wayne counties, in addition to Maury County, when he was elected to represent Senate District 23, which he served from 1983 to 1991 as a member of the 93rd to 96th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the legislature, Mr. Richardson served as Chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee and brought his invaluable expertise to the following committees as a member: House Transportation, House Agriculture, House

Government Operations, House Calendar and Rules, Senate Transportation, and the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Senate Majority Whip during the 93rd General Assembly, Senator Richardson rendered sterling service as Chairman of the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections and was also a member of the Senate Committee on Ethics and the Select Committee on Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson retired from elected public service in 1990, having sponsored and supported legislation for sunset review of state agencies, longevity pay for state employees, the creation of the state forestry commission, and safety belt use, in addition to working on a variety of measures dealing with mental health, senior citizens, agriculture, transportation, and corrections; and

WHEREAS, wholly dedicated to his community, Bill Richardson was a past president of the Columbia Civitan Club, a former president of the Culleoka Parent-Teachers Association and a valued member of the Maury County Farm Bureau and the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson is survived by his beloved wife, Peggy Ashburn Richardson, and his eight children, William Allen Richardson III, Autumn Joy Richardson Hood and husband John, Nancy Rene Richardson Smith, Carlton Darryl Richardson and wife Mollie, Noel Brett Richardson, Stanley Gregg Richardson, Amy Lynette Richardson Ballinger, and Logan Lance Richardson and wife Carolyn Ford; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his wonderful grandchildren, Tammy Been and husband Tim, Brian Darnell, Angie Baldwin, Caleb Moss, J'Andrea Hood, Jocelyn Hood, Josiah Hood, and Danielle Clayburn; and his treasured great-grandchildren, Ashton Darnell, Cadence Ray, Jacob Ray, Carson Thomas, Alex Baldwin, and Mary Jane Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, he will be sadly mourned, but fondly remembered, by his brother, James Richardson and wife Jeanette, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of dear friends and extended family members; and

WHEREAS, William Allen Richardson, Jr. took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all, and his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Senator Richardson 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 the members of this General Assembly should 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 our former colleague, William Allen Richardson, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend 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. Richardson.

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