

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative H. Victor Ellis of Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of our friend and former colleague Harrell Victor Ellis, a member of the House of Representatives of the 80th and 88th-96th Tennessee General Assemblies, who served in the House of Representatives from 1957-1959 and 1973-1989; and

WHEREAS, H. Victor Ellis was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 53rd House District, in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born May 12, 1923, in the Madison community of Davidson County, Tennessee, H. Victor Ellis was the son of Sam Polk and Netta Mae (Garrett) Ellis and graduated from Isaac Litton High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, answering his Nation's call to duty during World War II, Victor Ellis proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on September 12, 1942, and served as a private first-class assigned as a field telephone man; and

WHEREAS, compiling twenty-six months and twenty days of foreign service, Private Ellis saw action in the Pacific Theatre, including the Solomon Islands, Guam, and Iwo Jima before receiving his honorable discharge at Pensacola, Florida, on September 25, 1945; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Ellis was employed as a pipe fitter at the E.I. DuPont plant in Old Hickory, where he quickly earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and supervisors for the exemplary quality of his work and in which position he continued with the company until 1981 when he took a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, offering himself for public service in 1957, Victor Ellis won election to the Tennessee General Assembly to represent the good citizens of House District 53, which included areas in both Davidson and Wilson counties; and

WHEREAS, after serving as Deputy Clerk of the Metropolitan Nashville Criminal Court from 1964 to 1967, Mr. Ellis returned to the Tennessee General Assembly in 1973, once again representing House District 53 and the citizens of Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Victor Ellis worked tirelessly to help the citizens of his district and rendered sterling service as a member of the Calendar and Rules Committee, the Government Operations Committee, the Conservation and Environment Committee, and the Correctional Institutions Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly, Victor Ellis served with distinction for twelve years as Chairman of the House Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee, from the 91st through the 96th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, after his service in the legislature, Mr. Ellis served as City Manager of the City of Lakewood in Davidson County for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader among his peers, Victor Ellis was a member of Local 674, Textile Workers Union of America and a Past President, 1951-1955, of the Nashville Industrial Union Council; and

WHEREAS, a fifty-year member of the Jere Baxter Edgefield Masonic Lodge #254, Victor Ellis was also a Life Member as well as Past Commander of American Legion Post #105, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1291, the Marine Corps Association, and *La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux*; and

WHEREAS, former Representative Ellis also rendered sterling service during his lifetime as a member of the board of directors of the United Givers Fund and the Tennessee Safety Congress; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellis was preceded in death by his parents, Sam Polk and Netta Mae Ellis; his brother, Sam Polk Ellis, Jr.; sister, Mary Virginia Ellis Winn; and his son, H. Victor Ellis, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ellis will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his granddaughters, Kayla Ellis and Breeanna Ellis; his grandson, Dillon Ellis; great-grandson, Niquo Johnson, Jr.; and his sisters, Betty Hunt and Martha Baker; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and admired by his many friends and colleagues, Mr. Ellis loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ellis 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our former colleague Representative H. Victor Ellis, 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 Representative Ellis.

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