

HOUSE RESOLUTION 291

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Harmon Watson, Jr. of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert Harmon Watson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Robert Harmon Watson 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, Robert Harmon Watson, Jr. was born November 22, 1945, to parents Robert H. Watson, Sr. and Oma Lee Hall Watson in Radford, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Mr. Watson graduated from Central High School, obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, and in 1970, earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Robert Watson was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, entered the U.S. Army in 1970 as a second lieutenant, and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain; and

WHEREAS, he began his law career in 1970 as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Clinic before opening his private practice in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Robert Watson formed the law firm of Watson, Roach, Batson, Rowell and Lauderback, PLC, where he practiced law for more than thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, during his legal career, Robert Watson represented governmental entities, individuals, and physicians throughout the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was involved in several thousands of lawsuits in all state and federal courts in Tennessee and argued cases in the appellate courts of Tennessee as well as in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years, Mr. Watson served as the Chief Trial Counsel for the Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool, and for over thirty years, he represented the City of Knoxville and Knox County in a variety of litigation proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Robert Watson held numerous certifications, including a board certification in both civil pretrial practice and civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and was certified as a civil trial specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was highly regarded among his colleagues and the legal community and was listed as a preeminent trial attorney by Martindale Hubbell for over twenty years, where he had an AV rating; he was also listed as both a Super Lawyer and a Top Attorney in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Robert Watson loved his career but was a family man at heart; he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Robert Watson enjoyed the loving companionship of his high school sweetheart and wife of forty-six years, Pat Fowler Watson, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Beth Watson and Dr. Danny Drinnen, Christy Watson and Benj Lauderback, and Drs. Luke and Jackie Watson. He was the proud grandfather of his six grandchildren, Alex and Lucy Drinnen, Ian and Bonnie Watson, Ella Scout and Brennan Lauderback; and

WHEREAS, Robert Harmon Watson, Jr. 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, that we honor the memory of Robert Harmon Watson, Jr., 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 Harmon Watson, Jr.

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