

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 542

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kenneth Stanley “Bud” Adams, Jr., owner of the Tennessee Titans.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kenneth Stanley “Bud” Adams, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful and nationally prominent businessman, Bud Adams was the owner of the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League (NFL) and the chairman of Adams Resources and Energy, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, born on January 3, 1923, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Bud Adams was the son of Kenneth Stanley “Boots” Adams, the future Chief Executive Officer of Phillips Petroleum, and Blanch Keeler Adams, whose family were proud members of the Cherokee Nation; and

WHEREAS, a 1940 graduate of Culver Military Academy where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball, Bud Adams attended Menlo College in California, where he lettered in football and rugby, before transferring to study engineering at the University of Kansas where he again lettered in football, playing in the backfield, and also met his future wife, Nancy Neville; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation’s “Greatest Generation”, Bud Adams proudly answered the call to duty and joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1942 during World War II; he was later sent overseas and assigned to a carrier unit where he served as aviation engineering officer before being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Bud Adams began to build what would become his business empire in Houston, Texas in 1946 on a chance stop when his plane was grounded due to fog. Moving to Houston later that same year, he started ADA Oil Company, the forerunner of the now publically traded and New York Stock Exchange-listed Adams Resources & Energy, Incorporated, an

energy company engaged in the business of marketing crude oil, transportation of liquid chemicals, and oil and gas exploration and production; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams' business holdings would eventually include real estate, extensive farming and ranching interests, and automobile dealerships as well as ownership of the National Football League franchise now known as the Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, an avid sports fan, Bud Adams sponsored many amateur and AAU teams in basketball and softball and also had ownership participation in professional baseball, basketball and boxing but his passion was football; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 1959, Bud Adams made football history with the announcement from his office in Houston of the formation of the American Football League (AFL), which began play in 1960; and

WHEREAS, purchasing a franchise for \$25,000, Mr. Adams became the founder and owner of the Houston Oilers professional football team. The Oilers would be among the dominant AFL teams of the 1960s, winning league titles in 1960 and 1961 and playing in four championships before the AFL/NFL merger in 1970; and

WHEREAS, the first NFL team to play indoors, the Houston Oilers played at the Astrodome from 1967 to 1996; in 1997, Bud Adams relocated the team to Tennessee after successful negotiations for the construction of a new facility in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Oilers played their first season in Memphis at the Liberty Bowl and their second at Dudley Field at Vanderbilt University while their new field in Nashville was under construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Bud Adams renamed the team the Tennessee Titans, and they inaugurated their new stadium with an amazing season that culminated in an AFC Championship and a trip to Super Bowl XXXIV in Atlanta, falling short of tying the game by one yard as time expired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams and the Tennessee Titans built strong ties to the Nashville community and the people of Tennessee as local charities have received approximately \$18 million from the Titans and the NFL since the franchise moved to the Volunteer State; in

addition, Mr. Adams personally gave \$200,000 to help victims of the Nashville floods of May 2010; and

WHEREAS, honoring the men and women who proudly defend our great Nation, Bud Adams and the Titans hosted as their guests at LP Field more than 11,000 troops from nearby Fort Campbell, home of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and the Night Stalkers and Green Beret special operations forces; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 nominee for the Hall of Fame as a special contributor and one of only four NFL owners to win at least 350 games, Bud Adams' continued to share his vast experience with his fellow owners as a member of several prominent NFL committees including Finance, Hall of Fame, Legislative and Audit; and

WHEREAS, committed to improving the lives of his fellow citizens, Mr. Adams received numerous honors and awards for his philanthropic works, including the Lifetime Humanitarian Award from the T.J. Martell Foundation in 2011, and was inducted with his wife Nancy Adams into the Baptist Hospital of Nashville Seton Society for Excellence in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams received the inaugural Salute to Service Award presented by USAA, the NFL's official military appreciation sponsor, for his work with the military throughout the years and also received the inaugural Lamar Hunt Award for Professional Football, which recognized his vision and his role in helping the NFL reach prominent status; and

WHEREAS, Bud Adams was also very proud to be a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and the Menlo College Athletic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Nancy Neville Adams, his son, Kenneth S. Adams III, and his sister, Mary Louise Adams, Bud Adams is survived by his daughters, Susan Adams Smith and husband Tommy, Amy Adams Hunt and husband Bill; seven grandchildren, Stuart Smith, Nancy Smith, Tracy Thompson, Tommy Thompson, Blanche Strunk, Kenneth Adams IV and wife Amy, and Barclay Adams; and extended family, Susan and Steve Lewis; and

WHEREAS, Bud Adams 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, seldom do gentleman of his stature walk among us and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful and exceptional life of Kenneth Stanley "Bud" Adams, Jr.; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kenneth Stanley "Bud" Adams, 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 Mr. Adams.

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