

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 707

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Wallace Samuel Prescott of Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Wallace Samuel Prescott; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace Samuel Prescott 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, Dr. Prescott served with acumen and alacrity as an educator and administrator with Tennessee Technological University, in which positions he earned the respect of his colleagues and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Samuel Prescott was born on May 8, 1920, in Walker County, Georgia, to parents Samuel and Roxie Prescott; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Prescott's academic accomplishments are a testament to his intellect and hard work; he was a graduate of several institutions of higher education, including West Georgia Junior College, 1940; Tennessee Technological University, Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering, 1946; and Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, 1950; University of Tennessee, Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering, 1952; University of Illinois, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, 1962; and Oklahoma State University, NSF Institute, Post Doctorate, 1962; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Georgia Junior College in 1940, Wallace Prescott began his professional career with the Tennessee Valley Authority as a topographical draftsman; from 1945-1946, he worked for the Nashville Bridge Company as a structural engineer, and for several summers he worked as the senior bridge designer of the bridge division of the Tennessee Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Tennessee Technological University in 1946 and began his forty-year career in education as an instructor, assistant professor, and professor of General and Civil Engineering; in 1962, he became Dean of Faculties, a position he held for eight years; in 1970, he was appointed as Vice-President and Dean of Faculties, serving in this capacity for six years; in 1976, he was appointed and served as the Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs until 1983; and

WHEREAS, he left the academic field in 1983, serving as the Vice-President for Financial Services for Citizen's Bank until 1985 when he returned to Tennessee Technological University as the Interim President, a position he held until 1987; from 1990-1991, he served as the Interim President for Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace Prescott was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Tennessee Education Association, National Education Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, and American Society of Engineering Education; he served on committees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and Tennessee Industrial Research Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Prescott contributed his time and intellect to numerous civic boards and committees, serving as a member and past president of the board of directors of the Cookeville/Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, the board of trustees of Cookeville General Hospital, and the long-range planning committee for Cookeville Regional Medical Center; he served as a member of the board of directors of Cookeville Citizens Bank, board of directors and honorary director of Union Planters Bank, acting director for the Upper Cumberland Regional Development Center, and chairman of the long-range planning committee for Putnam County Schools; and

WHEREAS, he served in numerous capacities for several community organizations, including as a member, former treasurer, vice-president, president, and Paul Harris Fellow of the Cookeville Rotary Club; member, past president, and Melvin Fellow of the Cookeville Lions Club; a thirty-second degree Mason and member of the Al Menah Shrine Temple; assistant scout master and post advisor of the Senior Boy Scouts of Cookeville; chairman of the camping

and activities committee of the Upper Cumberland Boy Scout District; and he was awarded the Long Rifle and Silver Beaver awards by the Boys Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career and extensive civic participation, Dr. Prescott received various awards and honors, including: Who's Who in America; National Science Foundation Faculty Fellow; Outstanding Alumnus of Tennessee Technological University; Order of the Engineer, Engineer of Distinction of Tennessee Technological University; Outstanding Civilian Service Award, Department of the Army; Founder's Award, West Georgia College; Honorary State Farmer, Future Farmers of America; and Honorary Kentucky Colonel; and

WHEREAS, he also held numerous honorary society memberships, including: Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi, National Engineering Honor Society, Chi Epsilon, National Civil Engineering Honor Society, and Phi Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, building commemorations across Putnam County in honor of Dr. Prescott stand as testimony to the legacy of his contributions to education and the community, including Prescott Hall Civil Engineer Building at Tennessee Technological University and Prescott Central Middle School, the latter of which was named in honor of both he and his wife, Margaret, who was also an educator; when Prescott Central Middle School was closed, two new and innovative schools, Prescott South Elementary and Prescott South Middle, were named in their honor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace Prescott was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Cookeville, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and chair of various committees; and

WHEREAS, beyond his academic contributions and community service, Dr. Prescott was a photographer, golfer, motorcycle enthusiast, airplane pilot, and avid fisherman; he was also an environmentalist who loved the wonder of nature; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Prescott was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace Samuel Prescott was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-five years, Margaret Belle Hale Prescott; he was the proud patriarch of a family that includes two loving daughters, Sara Prescott Hudgens and Marnie Prescott Walsh; sons-in-law, Doug

Hudgens and Jack Stahlman; grandchildren, Shawn (Kellie) Hudgens and Christopher Hudgens; and great-grandchildren, Kendall and Harper Hudgens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Prescott 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, educator, and human being; 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 Dr. Wallace Samuel Prescott, 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 Dr. Prescott.

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