

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jacky Wayne Gilmer of Lobelville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jacky Wayne Gilmer of Lobelville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gilmer 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, Jacky Wayne Gilmer was born at his family homeplace in Gilmer Hollow on October 31, 1937, the beloved son of Jack and Inez Byrd Gilmer; and

WHEREAS, a longtime and treasured resident of Lobelville, Wayne Gilmer graduated from Lobelville High School in 1955 and thereafter continued to farm with his father near Lobelville; in addition to farm work, Mr. Gilmer repaired electronics, including television sets, an endeavor he enjoyed and a precursor to the work to which he would later dedicate himself; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 1959, Wayne Gilmer answered the call to serve his country by joining the Tennessee Air National Guard, where, during his first year, he completed Air Force Tech School at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi; he continued his service in the Air National Guard through its completion and was honorably discharged on January 25, 1965; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Gilmer worked in Nashville and McMinnville before accepting employment during the Cold War with Mason & Hanger—Silas Mason, a contractor for the Atomic Energy Commission, where he worked at the Clarksville Modification Center located at Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gilmer continued in his career in electronics by working on the communications band of the Saturn V rockets in Huntsville, Alabama, before returning home to Lobelville to work for WSM-TV in Nashville. Then, he began his employment with the State of Tennessee, where he parlayed his experience at WSM-TV into a dedicated career of skilled service in public broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, while working with the State, Mr. Gilmer played an integral role in establishing public broadcasting stations in rural and often underserved areas. He helped bring on air WSJK-TV in Sneedville and WLJT-TV in Lexington, remaining with the latter station as an engineer and, later, Chief Engineer; when WLJT-TV was divested by the State and the station came under the auspices of the West Tennessee Public Television Council, Inc., Mr. Gilmer continued his employment at the station until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity throughout his career, Wayne Gilmer retired with more than thirty-seven combined years of service to the Tennessee Air National Guard, the State of Tennessee, and West Tennessee Public Television Council, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a beloved patriarch of his family whose dear memory will abide with those who loved and cherished him, Wayne Gilmer enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of more than fifty-two years, Gayle Duncan Gilmer; he was the proud father of two children, Scott (Amber) Gilmer and Shelby (Michael Elswick) Olds, M.D., and doting grandfather of eight grandchildren, Natalie Hope Olds, Marcus Hunter Olds, Sydney Faith Olds, Skylar Grace Olds, Lawson Kingsley Olds, Brady Jackson Elswick, Sawyer Brooks Elswick, and Adaline Elizabeth Gilmer; and

WHEREAS, Jacky Wayne Gilmer's loving parents preceded him in death, as did his revered grandparents, Samuel Newton and Martha Ann Ledbetter Gilmer and Joe and Etta Patton Byrd; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Gilmer leaves behind an exemplary legacy of a life well-lived, and he will be fondly remembered for his kindness, humility, and willingness to sacrifice for others; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jacky Wayne Gilmer, 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. Gilmer.

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