

HOUSE RESOLUTION 105

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert E. Kirkland of Union City.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert E. Kirkland of Union City; and

WHEREAS, he was a distinguished resident of Obion County, a successful business owner who supported his family and made his community a desirable place to live and call home; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirkland was born on February 19, 1938, in Newberry, South Carolina, to Hayden Levi and Sara Cummings Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, he was raised in and around Union City, and grew up working in the family-owned Ben Franklin Store, a retail mainstay for the community. He started a sno-cone machine business venture at a young age with his cousin, the late Ken Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland graduated from Union City High School and the University of Tennessee, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland served with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Air Force Reserve for six years; and

WHEREAS, he then partnered with his cousin, Carl Jackson, to become co-owners of several Shop of John Simmons franchises, which subsequently launched them into opening Kirkland's stores throughout the southeast and beyond. He later retired as the owner of Kirkland's Consolidated, known as CBK; and

WHEREAS, for a time, he owned a Dairy Queen franchise in Lebanon and was the owner of Kirkland Barge and Towing, which operated thirteen transport barges on major rivers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirkland owned farmland in both Obion and Dyer counties and was the owner of Kirkland Finance. He also owned the majority of Kirkland Investors and owned the former Travel One in Union City, and was a founder and member of the board of directors of First State Bank; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in civil service, Mr. Kirkland was a member of Union City Rotary Club and the founder and supporter of Promethean Foundation and Discovery Park of America in Union City. He also supported the Rotary Club's free travel abroad program for local high school students and its Distinguished Speakers program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland was keenly interested in travel, writing, painting, people, political discussions, and playing practical jokes; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Jenny Darnall Kirkland, and by their children, Macy Kirkland, Tab Kirkland, and Chris Kirkland and his wife, Beth; and

WHEREAS, two grandsons, Wade and Hayden Kirkland; five granddaughters, Kristin Kirkland, Sara Swensson, Evelyn Swensson, Emma Swensson, and Bonner Kirkland; six nieces and nephews; and several cousins also survive Mr. Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirkland leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all of his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should 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, that we honor the memory of Robert E. Kirkland, 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. Kirkland.

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