

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 308

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Samuel Edgar McFadden of Somerville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Samuel Edgar “Sam” McFadden; and

WHEREAS, born on June 4, 1923, in Ruston, Louisiana, to Samuel Edgar and Lois Valeria McKinstry McFadden, Dr. Sam McFadden served with valor and dignity in the United States Army Air Force during World War II before becoming one of the country’s foremost authorities in botany, especially concerning the hibiscus flower and its varieties; and

WHEREAS, Sam McFadden attended Louisiana Tech for one year before matriculating to Southwestern at Memphis, now Rhodes College, from which he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McFadden joined the United States Army during World War II, serving in active duty as a member of the Air Force between 1943 and 1946. As a proud member of the 19th Bomb Group, Sam McFadden served in Sardinia, Corsica, France, Austria, Germany, and England before returning to the United States; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, he enrolled in graduate school at the University of Virginia, where he completed his doctorate requirements in the field of biology in 1950. While attending the University of Virginia, Dr. McFadden held one of the DuPont fellowships in cytogenetics at the Blandy Experimental Farm, and it was during this time he became interested in botany and horticulture; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Dr. McFadden joined the staff of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations, part of the University of Florida, as an assistant horticulturalist. He worked as a member of the university’s Department of Horticulture until 1976; and

WHEREAS, in 1964—1965, Dr. Sam McFadden taught floriculture at the University of Hawaii, and it was during this year that he was able to introduce Protea species suitable for cut flower use; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McFadden's work with the hibiscus flower resulted in a number of new breeds, including three new herbaceous perennial hibiscus selections which were released by the University of Florida in 1962, all three of which were bred by Dr. McFadden. Two of these breeds, "Flare" and "Red River," have proven to be extremely popular and hardy, and are beloved by many who appreciate the hibiscus plant; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the University of Florida in 1976, Dr. Sam McFadden moved to Somerville, where he continued his horticultural work. He was dedicated to hybridizing the woody species of the hibiscus to secure new cultivars which would be hardy in temperate regions, and his work also resulted in the cultivation of the "Blue Angel" and "White Angel" altheas, both of which were patented and are sold worldwide by the Greenleaf Wholesale Nursery in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McFadden also created a dwarf species of crape myrtle which now bears his name, the "McFadden's Pinkie Myrtle"; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his parents and his brother, William James McFadden, Dr. Sam McFadden is survived by his sisters and brother-in-law, Betty Ann and Collier Harvey and Valeria Peters, his sister-in-law, Jean McFadden, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McFadden 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Samuel Edgar McFadden, 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. McFadden.

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