

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 440

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dixie Ann Featherstone Parker.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dixie Ann Featherstone Parker, a lifelong resident of Bell Buckle and a proponent of quality education in Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, serving her third term on the Bedford County Board of Education at the time of her death, Dixie Parker was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on July 28, 1945, to William Preston Featherstone and Margaret Mae Dellfs Featherstone in Bell Buckle, Dixie Parker was a 1963 graduate of Bell Buckle High School and attended Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, completing training as a Licensed Practical Nurse through the Bedford County school system in 1967, Mrs. Parker worked for many years as a nurse for Dr. Fred Owenby, Dixie Home Foods, and Bedford County Hospital and also served as a private duty nurse; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the health-services field, Dixie Parker rendered sterling service to the citizens of Bedford County during her years as an employee of the Bedford County Clerk's office under the leadership of Kathy Prater; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for children and a champion for education, Dixie Parker won election to the Bedford County Board of Education in September 2004 and was subsequently reelected twice more to represent the citizens of District 1; and

WHEREAS, a Level V (Master) of the Tennessee School Board Association's boardmanship program, Mrs. Parker was one of only two Middle Tennessee school board members to receive the honor of being named to the All Tennessee School Board in November 2012 at the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Tennessee School Board Association Leadership Conference; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Shelby Chapter, since October 11, 1997, Dixie Parker had been installed as the DAR's regent, the organization's leader, for the 2015-2016 term; and

WHEREAS, during her many years of service to the DAR, Mrs. Parker held the offices of first vice regent twice and regent three times, as she took part in many of the group's service projects, such as knitting blankets for veterans and helmet liners for active duty military overseas; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of Bell Buckle Baptist Church, Dixie Parker was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parker was preceded in death by her brother, William Preston "Padro" Featherstone; and

WHEREAS, Dixie Parker enjoyed the companionship and support of her husband of fifty-one years, George Thomas Parker; her sons, Kenny (Kelly) Parker and David (Anjie) Parker; and her grandchildren, Lance, Aaron, Lauren, Caleb, and Landon Parker; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parker is also survived by her parents, William Preston "Goose" Featherstone and Margaret Mae Delffs "Prannie" Featherstone; her sister, Nita (Mike) Carroll; and her sister-in-law, Debbie Featherstone; and

WHEREAS, her sons have followed in their mother's footsteps by devoting their careers to education: Kenny is the transportation supervisor for the Bedford County school system, and David serves as principal of Cascade Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Dixie Parker leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we mourn the death and honor the memory of Dixie Ann Featherstone Parker, applauding her unwavering dedication to serving the citizens of Bedford County and extending our deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

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