

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 522

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of R. Clayton McWhorter of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of R. Clayton McWhorter, a health care pioneer, businessman, and philanthropist, who played an instrumental role in Nashville's moving to the forefront of the health care industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter joined Health Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) in 1970 and served in various roles before leading the company as chief executive officer (CEO) from 1985 to 1987, the same year he cofounded HealthTrust Inc., which he served as CEO until its merger with Columbia/HCA in 1995; and

WHEREAS, described as a "visionary leader," Mr. McWhorter was a founding partner in the Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame, which commemorates the many and lasting impacts Tennessee has made on the national and international stage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter was among the inaugural inductees of the Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame in 2015, and he had received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of American Health Systems; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter's influence extended beyond the health care industry into many other Nashville industries; in 1996, he launched Clayton Associates, an investment firm that provides venture capital to start-up companies; and

WHEREAS, he served as inaugural board chairman of the Nashville Entrepreneur Center when it was founded in 2010, in which position he played a crucial role in offering support and guidance to entrepreneurs, as well as promoting the visibility of the center and the Nashville business community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter's son, Stuart McWhorter, was chosen in 2015 to serve as the CEO of the Nashville Entrepreneur Center, thus continuing his father's commitment to start-ups and innovation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many contributions to Nashville's health care industry and other businesses, Mr. McWhorter was one of Belmont University's "most treasured supporters" for the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter was a trustee emeritus at Belmont and the founder of Belmont's Center for Executive Education; and

WHEREAS, "a trusted advisor, inspiration, and benefactor," Clayton McWhorter helped transform the lives of Belmont students through his multimillion-dollar endowment of the McWhorter Scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, he was a driving force behind the creation of the Belmont College of Pharmacy, which utilizes a creative approach to pharmacy education, and the building that houses the college was named after him and his late brother, Fred McWhorter; and

WHEREAS, before his health care career, Mr. McWhorter attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in pre-pharmacy and earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1955 from Samford University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Tennessee (UT) for twelve years and funded several scholarships at the University; in 2013, UT presented him with the Natalie and Jim Haslam Presidential Medal for outstanding contributions in philanthropy, leadership, and service; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, his alma mater, Samford University, bestowed upon Mr. McWhorter the honorary degree of Doctor of Commerce and, in 1996, named its School of Pharmacy in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter was active in charitable organizations too numerous to mention, and his many honors include election to the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame, Junior Achievement's Free Enterprise Award, Easter Seals Nashvillian of the Year, and the Joe C. Kraft Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McWhorter's civic involvement included the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Partnership 2000, Tennessee Tomorrow, and the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, which he served as chairman; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his status as a giant in the health care industry and the Nashville business community, Mr. McWhorter was a friend to many and an inspiration to and role model for those he helped and mentored; and

WHEREAS, he was a compassionate gentleman with a huge heart who took great pleasure in helping others; despite his great success, he remained humble and believed strongly in the concept of "paying it forward" as a means of investing in the future of his community; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Mr. McWhorter was devoting much of his time and focus to health care reform; in 2007, he founded SHOUTAmerica to promote a dialogue among young people on health care reform, and in 2008, he cofounded and chaired the Rolling Hills Group, a group of business, consumer, provider, policy, and other opinion leaders focusing on quality health care reform for Tennessee and eventually the nation; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary gentleman is survived by his wife, Michelle Smith McWhorter; sister, Bernice McWhorter Beasley (Raymond); son, Stuart C. McWhorter (Leigh Anne Hendrix); daughter, Jodie McWhorter; stepdaughters, Kimberly Ross Miller (Tyler) and Amy Ross Bahur (John); granddaughters, Grace, Caroline, Marleigh, and Layla McWhorter, Courtney Kline, and Lucy Miller; grandsons, Clayton and Thomas McWhorter, John Austin, Matthew, Jackson, and Sam Miller, and Andrew Bahur; nieces, Teresa Beasley Collison, Robbie Beasley Leonard, and Elaine LeBlanc; and nephews, Shawn, Neal, and Mark McWhorter; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly 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 celebrate the life and honor the memory of R. Clayton McWhorter, reflecting fondly upon his enduring legacy as a health care pioneer, businessman,

philanthropist, friend, mentor, and visionary civic leader that will impact Tennessee for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. McWhorter.

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