

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 584

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of George Randolph Offitt of Gallatin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of George Randolph Offitt; and

WHEREAS, George Offitt 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, a proud veteran and beloved local legend, Mr. Offitt enjoyed a forty-five year career in education, having served as the first black assistant principal at Gallatin High School before his retirement in 1990; and

WHEREAS, the son of Julius and Eva Offitt, George Randolph Offitt was born on December 5, 1924, and attended Sumner County schools. He enlisted in the United States Navy during the middle of his senior year at Union High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's Greatest Generation, Mr. Offitt was stationed at a naval base in San Pedro, California, during World War II, where he worked to assure the legitimacy of vessels from across the world passing through the harbor; and

WHEREAS, George Offitt returned to Gallatin after completing his military service and graduated from Union High School in 1946. He continued his education at Tennessee State University, studying history and biology, and would return to Union to teach those subjects and serve as band director; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished musician, George Offitt and his "Swingsters" band performed at events across Tennessee for decades, playing whatever the popular tune was at the time; and

WHEREAS, all-black Union High School was merged with Gallatin High School in 1970, and Mr. Offitt would teach and serve as band director at Gallatin before becoming the first black assistant principal at the school; and

WHEREAS, George Offitt will be long remembered for the many times he donned his signature red coat and played "Taps" on his bugle at countless military funerals across the region in respectful tribute to his fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, George Offitt enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Billie Offitt, and their six children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt 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 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of George Randolph Offitt, 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. Offitt.

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