

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 504

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Payson Matthews III of Somerville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Payson Matthews III; and

WHEREAS, John Matthews 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, born to John Payson Matthews, Jr., and Marguerite Stainback Matthews in Somerville on June 26, 1932, Mr. Matthews graduated from Fayette County High School in 1950. He later obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee in 1954; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, John Matthews served in the United States Army in Korea along the 38th Parallel as a first lieutenant in the signal corps; and

WHEREAS, after serving honorably in the military, Mr. Matthews furthered his education at the University of Tennessee College of Law, from which he received his Juris Doctorate; and

WHEREAS, John Matthews served with acumen and alacrity as an attorney, in which position he earned the respect of his peers, superiors, and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, along with practicing law at his own firm in Somerville, Mr. Matthews was a longtime city attorney for the City of Somerville and served multiple terms as a member of the Fayette County Court; and

WHEREAS, John Matthews also lent his talents and leadership to a host of other organizations, including the University of Tennessee College of Law Alumni Advisory Council,

which he served as chairman; the Somerville Country Club, which he served as a founding member and chairman; Fayette Academy, which he served as founder and board member; and First State Bank of Fayette County, which he served as founder and longtime chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Matthews was inducted as a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, an honor reserved for select attorneys deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the legal profession and the public good; and

WHEREAS, John Matthews was an active and devout member of First Presbyterian Church in Somerville, which he served faithfully for many years as clerk of the session and in a host of other positions; and

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

WHEREAS, John Matthews enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Eugenia Dossett Matthews. He will be fondly remembered by his wife; his sons, John Payson Matthews IV, Blakeley Dossett Matthews, and Thomas Burgin Jennings Matthews; and his seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Payson Matthews III, 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. Matthews.

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