

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 266

By Smith

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bill Hobbs of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Bill Hobbs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hobbs 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 Pennsylvania native, Bill Hobbs came to call Tennessee home when he attended Lipscomb University, where he studied American history and political science; he also attended Abilene Christian University in Texas, where he received a journalism degree, and thereafter returned to Nashville and his beloved adopted home state; and

WHEREAS, it was during the mid-1990s that Mr. Hobbs's important, influential career in journalism took off when he became a reporter for *The Tennessean*; he also wrote for the *Nashville Business Journal* and Nashville's *The City Paper*; and

WHEREAS, Bill Hobbs soon became the premier conservative voice for Nashville and the State; known as a tenacious reporter who questioned everything, he was unafraid of pronouncing his opinions on public policy, even if it meant disagreeing with his Republican friends; and

WHEREAS, ever eager to embrace new technologies and forms of conveying his message, Mr. Hobbs began blogging in the early 2000s, sharing his views on everything from news outlets to taxation; his blog further cemented his status as an important voice on the forefront of Republicans' rise in Tennessee politics; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Bill Hobbs was hired by Chairman Robin Smith to serve as the communications director for the Tennessee Republican Party; in this capacity, he embraced digital platforms such as Twitter and Facebook and created video content to communicate

directly with the people of this State; Mr. Hobbs was well versed in public policy, and his convincing arguments and keen insight were influential at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, after leaving his post at the Tennessee Republican Party, Mr. Hobbs went to work for legendary developer Tony Giarratana to document the construction of the 505 Building, Nashville's tallest skyscraper at 605 feet; Mr. Hobbs's love of Nashville and his passion and talent for photography were on full display during this project; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hobbs was an active and devout member of the Church of Christ all his life; most recently, he worshiped with a congregation in Dahlonega, Georgia, where his brother-in-law is a preacher; and

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

WHEREAS, Bill Hobbs was blessed with the love of his son, daughter, two sisters, brother-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hobbs 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bill Hobbs, 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. Hobbs.

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