

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 393

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James E. "Shorty" Smith.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of James E. "Shorty" Smith of Ramer, a World War II veteran, a member of America's greatest generation, and an accomplished carpenter who departed this world at the age of ninety-seven years, seven months, and eleven days; and

WHEREAS, the son of Lee Roy and Mattie Mae Moore Smith, James E. "Shorty" Smith proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II and was a member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 1945, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Freddie Mae Smith; the couple enjoyed nearly seventy years of marital bliss and raised five children, eleven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren together before Mrs. Smith's death on December 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a talented carpenter, Mr. Smith helped build approximately 500 homes during his forty-five years as a craftsman; and

WHEREAS, a cautious child of the Great Depression who remained "as sharp as a tack" even during his later years, Mr. Smith was ever concerned about his grandchildren's performance in the workplace and their dedication to saving money for the future; and

WHEREAS, he was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and catfish connoisseur, and he and Mrs. Smith thoroughly enjoyed gardening; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong member of Mount Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Ramer, Mr. Smith was a devout Christian who was deeply committed to his relationship with Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith truly enjoyed people, and he frequented local establishments in search of good conversation; he was such a regular presence at one restaurant that the staff there knew his order by heart; and

WHEREAS, James E. "Shorty" Smith is survived by his children, Betty Caldwell and husband Bill, Vickie Lyles and husband Jimmy, Mike Smith and wife Janie, Judy Kirk and husband Roger, and Anita Hively and husband Jason; a sister, Polly Crum; grandchildren, Chad Smith, Josh Smith, Bart Caldwell, Mandy Gray, Jeremy Lyles and wife Marsha, Jodi Tyler and husband Reagan, Wesley King and wife Christina, Jason Kirk, Jourdan Hurd and husband Zach, Lucas Hively, and Annagrace Watkins and husband Hayden; great-grandchildren, Justin Smith, Lexie Smith, JT Smith, Abbie Lyles, Meredith Whitfield, Madelyn Whitfield, Khloe Caldwell, Shiloh Tyler, Avery Tyler, Ella Katherine Watkins, and Karson Watkins; and a special caregiver, Sandy Bean; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and parents, Mr. Smith was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Larron King; a granddaughter, Lauren King; four brothers, Otis Lee "Boss" Smith, Roy Bishop "Bill" Smith, Winfred "Dooke" Smith, and Emmett "Pig" Smith; and a sister, Ewell Lindsey; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has departed this world for a far better existence, yet he leaves behind an indelible legacy of wisdom acquired through life's lessons, expert craftsmanship as a carpenter, humble Christian service, and true love for his family and fellow human beings; 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 James E. "Shorty" Smith, reflecting fondly upon his life of purpose and accomplishment as a professional, Christian, and family man, and extend our sympathy and condolences to his family.

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