

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 754

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wardean Perdue of
Macon County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wardean Perdue; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perdue was a longtime radio broadcaster at WEEN Radio in Lafayette and was known as the Voice of the Tigers for the way he called Macon County High School (MCHS) games with such clarity and precision that listeners could feel like they were there; and

WHEREAS, a Macon Countian by birth and by choice, Wardean Perdue was born on July 30, 1927, in the Rocky Mound community; he attended MCHS before transferring to Westmoreland High School, from which he graduated in 1947; and

WHEREAS, he attended Austin Peay State University and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with his teaching certificate; he then taught at Union Hill, New Zion, and Cross Roads, where he established the hot lunch program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perdue changed careers in the late 1950s after expressing interest in a career in radio during a conversation with WEEN Radio owner Bob Perry and station manager Marvin Leslie; in the beginning, he reported the news, acted as a deejay, and sold advertisements; and

WHEREAS, Wardean Perdue was the play-by-play voice of Trousdale County High School football for three years before becoming the announcer for the MCHS football games in 1965, a position he held until the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his radio broadcasting career, Mr. Perdue also hosted an early morning sign-on show; an afternoon gospel music show, "Sunday Serenade"; and a

morning show, "Gospel Hour," which featured gospel music, birthday and anniversary announcements, and his one-of-a-kind, homespun wit; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Wardean Perdue covered the deadly Red Boiling Springs flood, and WEEN Radio later won a state award for its news coverage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perdue received the Mr. Dee Jay USA award during a special broadcast from Opryland USA theme park in Nashville, and in 2002, he was inducted into the Macon County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Wardean Perdue was also an accomplished fiddler who performed with the Portland City Limits Band for more than thirty years at many venues across Middle Tennessee, including the Portland Strawberry Festival, the Ernest Tubb Midnight Jamboree, and the South Pittsburg Music Barn; closer to home, he played with the Knollwood Band at Knollwood Manor in Lafayette as well as other nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the area; and

WHEREAS, a Master Mason, Mr. Perdue was an active member of his community who emceed various events, coached Babe Ruth baseball, broadcast Little League baseball games, and officiated sporting events for many years; 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, Wardean Perdue enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mel Wilson Perdue; he was the proud father of Gary (Debbie) Perdue and Freddie (Wilma) Perdue and the beloved grandfather of several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perdue was preceded in death by his first wife and the mother of his children, Mable Perdue; and

WHEREAS, Wardean Perdue 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 Wardean Perdue, 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. Perdue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.