

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 926

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Arthur David "Butch" Rhea of Somerville.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Arthur David "Butch" Rhea; and

WHEREAS, born on December 23, 1947, to Author and Edna Walls Rhea, Mr. Rhea 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 graduate of Fayette County High School, Butch Rhea served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1970, including a year stationed in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhea began his career with *The Fayette Falcon* in 1965 as a printer, photographer, and reporter for city and county meetings and sporting events; the owner of the paper at the time of his passing, Butch Rhea served for nearly fifty-five years with the publication; his lengthy tenure with the newspaper earned him recognition from the Tennessee Press Association in 2016 as an inductee into the 50-Year Club; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, he served for eleven years as a Reserve Captain for the Town of Oakland Police Department; he was a staunch supporter of Fayette County Animal Rescue and a loyal member of the National Rifle Association, serving on the Friends of NRA committee and helping organize fundraising banquets for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Butch Rhea and Kenny Feathers started Fayette County's first handgun carry permit classes; and

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

WHEREAS, Butch Rhea is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, Carolyn Griffin Rhea, and their two sons, Randy Alan Rhea and Ryan David (Claudia) Rhea; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhea 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 we 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 and service of Arthur David "Butch" Rhea, 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. Rhea.

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.