

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 948

By Rudder

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Assistant Public Defender Andrew Jackson "Jack" Dearing III of the 17th Judicial District.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing in October 2019 of Andrew Jackson "Jack" Dearing III, who served as an Assistant Public Defender for the 17th Judicial District for twenty-one years; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Dearing was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens and clients in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Shelbyville in 1946, Mr. Dearing graduated from Shelbyville Central High School and proudly served in the United States Air Force as an airplane mechanic from 1966 through 1974; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of the Vietnam War, Mr. Dearing was awarded the Air Force Good Conduct Medal for his honorable and faithful service; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home to Tennessee, Mr. Dearing graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, Jack Dearing began his civilian career in the field of human resources in 1974 and worked as a personnel manager for Genesco, Incorporated, in Nashville for six years and human resources manager for Empire Berol in Shelbyville for ten years; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty-nine, Mr. Dearing decided to attend law school, and he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Nashville School of Law in 1989; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from law school, Mr. Dearing went into private practice in Shelbyville for seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Dearing became an Assistant Public Defender for the 17th Judicial District, serving Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore counties, a position he held for twenty-one years and served in at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Dearing was an excellent attorney who cared for his clients and fought zealously for them; he was well-loved and respected by his fellow attorneys, local judges, and clerks because of his commitment to the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dearing was involved in a multitude of professional, civic, and social organizations and endeavors, including the Bedford County Bar Association, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, local little league baseball teams, and numerous golf tournaments for a number of worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, Jack Dearing was a pilot who loved to spend his time flying; he also enjoyed golfing, fishing, baseball, and cheering on the University of Tennessee Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dearing was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Edme, and the relationship he shared with his sons, Mark and Jay, their wives, and his four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Dearing demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar, the bench, and his community alike; and

WHEREAS, Jack Dearing leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all of his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and friend to all; 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 Andrew Jackson "Jack" Dearing 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. Dearing.

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.