

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 977

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative Jerry Cross.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of our friend and former colleague Jerry Cross, a member of the 94th-100th Tennessee General Assemblies, who served in the House of Representatives from 1984 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Cross was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 36th House District; and

WHEREAS, born the son of Arvel "Darb" and Minnie Ledford Cross on March 17, 1941, in Marietta, South Carolina, Jerry Cross grew up in a large family with his brothers and sister; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, Jerry Cross served in the Vietnam War and earned the Bronze Star medal for service in combat; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home to Campbell County, Mr. Cross enrolled at Lincoln Memorial University, from which he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree; he then worked as a teacher in the Campbell County school system; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Cross began his life of community service as a member of the Campbell County Commission, on which he deftly served from 1966 to 1970; and

WHEREAS, an acclaimed businessman, Mr. Cross was also a Mason, a Shriner, president of the Caryville Optimist Club, and a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Jerry Cross was elected to serve the people of the 36th District as a member of the House of Representatives; during his fourteen-year tenure, he garnered the respect and admiration of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Jerry Cross worked tirelessly to help the citizens of his district and rendered sterling service as chair of the House Conservation and Environment Committee and member of the Government Operations Committee, the Agriculture Committee, the State and Local Government Committee, and the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate advocate for the people he served, Representative Cross was a friend to veterans, coal miners, and small businesses and a voice for the citizens of Campbell, Claiborne, Hancock, and Anderson counties; and

WHEREAS, Representative Cross's service did not end with his time in the General Assembly; in 2002, he was elected mayor of Campbell County, in which capacity he served with integrity for six years; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout faith, Jerry Cross was a member of Caryville First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he is sadly mourned but fondly remembered by those who knew and loved him, chief among them his wife, Brenda Tackett Cross; daughter, Suzanne Cross Boshears; grandchildren, Loren Humphrey, Josh Humphrey, and Lacey Boshears; great-grandchildren, Drew Humphrey and Elizabeth Humphrey; brothers, Donald Ray (Margaret) Cross, Jackie (Jeanie) Cross, and Greg (Rhonda) Cross; sister, Wanda (Johnny Joe) Dower; special friends, the Scotties Crew and Donald Boshears; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Representative Cross was preceded in death by his brother, Paul Cross, and his parents-in-law, Ova and Flora Tackett; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and admired by his many friends and colleagues, Representative Cross loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State

a better place for all; his unmatched record of public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Cross 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 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 our former colleague Representative Jerry Cross, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend 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 Representative Cross.

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.