

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1054

By Hulseby

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of J. Ralph Deal of Kingsport.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to the memory of those individuals whose lives of purpose stand, even today, as a beacon for every citizen of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, in his seventy years on this Earth, J. Ralph Deal 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, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ralph Deal moved to Kingsport at a young age; a member of the Greatest Generation, he served in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deal graduated from Gupton-Jones Mortuary College in Nashville in 1950 and earned his associate degree from Walters State Community College, and he was a certified criminal justice instructor for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Deal was a thirty-four-year veteran of the City of Kingsport Police Department who served and protected the citizens of Kingsport with honor, dedication, and composed bravery, retiring as chief of police in 1985; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to his profession, he was one of fourteen founding charter members of the Kingsport Rescue Squad, serving on its first board of directors, and a charter member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, serving as the organization's vice president for a time. He also served as state president of the Fraternal Order of Police for more than two years and director of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, a 32nd degree Mason, Ralph Deal was a member of Glenwood Baptist Church, the Kingsport Eagles Club, and Kingsport Masonic Lodge No. 688; and

WHEREAS, a leader of men, Ralph Deal could look at the potential in a man and then provide an atmosphere for that man to reach his potential; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deal believed that right should always trump rules, and he could always balance discipline with mercy; and

WHEREAS, a devout man, Ralph Deal supported Christian organizations and missionaries without displaying fanfare or self-aggrandizement; he fought his own demons, understanding the frailty of men, while holding firmly to the hand of the God of the Bible; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deal 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 J. Ralph Deal, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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.