

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1151

By Baum

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert; and

WHEREAS, the director of schools for Murfreesboro City Schools, Dr. Linda Gilbert was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a Murfreesboro native, Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert was born on October 25, 1950 to Waymon David "W.D." and Willie B. Arms; and

WHEREAS, after her graduation from Central High School, Dr. Gilbert received her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Education Specialist degree from Middle Tennessee State University and obtained her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected and admired educator, Dr. Linda Gilbert served as a band and music teacher at Black Fox Elementary School early in her career with Murfreesboro City Schools and was recognized as the Tennessee Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader and stellar educator, Dr. Gilbert had served as director of schools for Murfreesboro City Schools since 2010, and was recognized as Tennessee's top education leader in 2018 by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Gilbert's leadership, Murfreesboro City Schools attained Exemplary School District recognition by the Tennessee Department of Education as she championed childcare for the district's teachers to retain and recruit educators, advocated for a full-time police officer to be assigned to each school, and used the district's buses to ensure

meals were delivered to children while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic;
and

WHEREAS, prior to accepting her job as director of schools, Dr. Linda Gilbert was an associate professor in the Educational Leadership Department of Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, an active part of her community, Dr. Gilbert was a true champion for children and served on the Child Advocacy Center's board of directors for nearly twenty years;
and

WHEREAS, she was a lifelong member of Bethel United Methodist Church, which she served faithfully for fifty-seven years as the organist for every Sunday service; she also played piano as a volunteer from her church every month for worship services at the Tennessee Veterans Home; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gilbert was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Steve Gilbert, and was the proud parent of Cherry (David) Ross and Brian Gilbert, and the devoted grandmother of Reagan Ross, Makenzie Ross, and Braden Ross; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Linda Gilbert leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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 Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Dr. Gilbert.

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.