

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1196

By Howell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Robert Harold O'Bannon of Cleveland.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert Harold O'Bannon; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert O'Bannon 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 on January 29, 1938, in Zellwood, Florida, Dr. Robert Harold O'Bannon was the son of Floyd and Julia O'Bannon; his father pastored numerous churches throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Dr. Robert O'Bannon taught at Lee University in Cleveland for forty-five years, during which time he served as chairman of the Department of Science and Mathematics for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Bannon received his Associate of Arts degree from Lee College, his Bachelor of Science degree from East Tennessee State University, his Master of Arts degree in Theology from Pentecostal Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Florida; and

WHEREAS, a noted scholar and lecturer, Dr. O'Bannon was the recipient of the Lee University Excellence in Teaching Award in 1980 and the Lee University Excellence in Scholarship Award in 1989; and

WHEREAS, he was the co-creator of LIAISONS (Lee's Involved Alumni In Science Offering Noteworthy Service), which saw hundreds of Lee University science graduates involved in medicine, dentistry, and nursing careers; and

WHEREAS, a longtime sponsor of Lee University's social service fraternity, Upsilon Xi, Dr. O'Bannon was also a co-creator of the university's short-term medical missions program for students, which is now Lee's Global Experience program; and

WHEREAS, he also served as an advisor to Lee University's campus pro-life group and was a member of University Faculty for Life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Bannon participated in the fiftieth anniversary symposium on the Scopes Trial in Dayton and hosted a number of academic conferences in addition to being a popular lecturer on Science and the Bible across the United States and around the globe; and

WHEREAS, an ordained minister in the Church of God, Dr. O'Bannon served as superintendent of Middle East Missions for the Church of God from 1964 to 1967; taught at the European Bible Seminary in Rupersburg, Germany, and summer Bible school in Jerusalem; and completed countless mission trips to over forty countries; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Church of God Missions Advisory Board, an early team leader of Church of God STEP (Summer Training Evangelism Program) missions, and founding member of Westmore Church of God, where he taught Sunday School and received the H.D. Williams Service Award; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Church of God Department of Education and the Distinguished Educator Faculty Award from the Church of God; and

WHEREAS, a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Dr. Robert O'Bannon worked for more than thirty years as a lab technician at Bradley Memorial Hospital/Tennova and participated in community blood drives; and

WHEREAS, an active part of his community, Dr. O'Bannon was a founder of Samaritan House and New Hope Pregnancy Care Center, a former instructor/counselor for Youth Conversation Corps, and a Boy Scout Troop Leader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Bannon was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Nancy Maureen Crouch O'Bannon, Dr. O'Bannon is survived by his three children, Randy O'Bannon and wife Sandra Lee Cobb, Bethany Bowman and husband J.C. Bowman, and Terry O'Bannon; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert O'Bannon 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 Dr. Robert Harold O'Bannon, 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 Dr. O'Bannon.

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.