

HOUSE RESOLUTION 285

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Hubert G. Baldwin of Oneida.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Hubert G. Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldwin was an exemplary businessman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, beginning from humble origins, Hubert Baldwin rose from a store clerk to help form the largest coal company in the State of Tennessee during the latter years of the coal boom, West Coal Corporation; and

WHEREAS, born on May 26, 1917, in Stephens, Hubert G. Baldwin was the son of A.G. Baldwin and Flossie Vera Smith Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, beginning as a commissary clerk for the Straight Fork Coal Company, Mr. Baldwin spent his entire professional career in the coal industry; and

WHEREAS, while working for the Zenith mining camp in 1939, he was joined in holy matrimony with the love of his life, Alma Anna Pennington, and the couple would enjoy sixty-six years of wedded bliss until her passing in 2005; and

WHEREAS, relocating to Oneida in 1943, Mr. Baldwin and his family would continue to reside there for the rest of his life as he went to work for his father-in-law, L.C. Pennington, and later began to sell coal and open offices in Knoxville and Harriman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldwin formed West Coal Corporation with his two sons-in-law, Roger West and Jack E. Lay. At its peak, West Coal was the largest coal producer in the State of Tennessee and operated mines in several counties in Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, due to heavy federal regulations and the declining coal industry, West Coal ended mining operations in the 1990s; at the time of its closing, the company and its subsidiaries employed approximately 1,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldwin was chairman of the board of First Trust & Savings Bank from 1975 to 1995 and served one term as a member of the Scott County Hospital Board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Facts About Coal in Tennessee in 1988 and was honored as both a Tennessee and Kentucky Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldwin made a profession of faith and was baptized in 1950 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, which he served for many years as chairman of the trustees and chairman of the building committee; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldwin is survived by his daughters, Rose (Roger) West and Sharon (Jack) Lay; eight grandchildren, Greg West, Chris West, Miche Rose, Todd Lay, Scarlett Lay, Hugh Lay, Faith Lambert, and Dustin Lay; twelve great-granddaughters, Stacia West, Pyper West, Mallory Delk, Chaya Rose, Bristol Rose, Brittney Surface, Kelsie Lay, Carrington Lay, Shalyn Hamby, Nicoleah Lewallen, Ali Smith, and Carmen Miller; thirteen great-grandsons, Matt West, Tyler West, Dylan West, Dallas West, Dannon West, Lucas West, Zach Lambert, Jacob Lambert, Benjie Lambert, Hughston Lay, Corey Lay, Chance Lay, and Nash Lay; eighteen great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Violet Justice, Anna Judd, Edna Peavyhouse, Louise Miller, and Roger Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, Hubert Baldwin 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 we 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, that we honor the memory of Hubert G. Baldwin, 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. Baldwin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.