

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Joseph Leeper Willoughby of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Joseph Leeper Willoughby; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph Willoughby 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 Morristown on October 15, 1934, Dr. Willoughby graduated from Mt. Juliet High School and attended George Peabody College and Memphis State University; he received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph Willoughby honorably served this country as a medical officer in the United States Navy for three years and moved to Franklin in 1960; and

WHEREAS, in his fifty-three-year career as a physician, Dr. Willoughby had a profound impact in the world of geriatric care, being responsible for the creation of Harpeth Terrace Convalescent Center, now Grace Healthcare, and Claiborne Hughes Convalescent Center, now Claiborne & Hughes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his medical practice, Dr. Willoughby was an astute businessman and an active member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practice, and the Williamson County Medical Society. He served forty-five years in the House of Delegates on the Long-Term Care Committee of the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) and was named the TMA Outstanding Physician of the Year in 2007; and

WHEREAS, he was also an active member of the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, the Franklin Noon Rotary Club, and the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce; he was the founding president of the Carnton Association, now part of the Battle of Franklin Trust; the co-founder of Harpeth Academy, now Battle Ground Academy Lower School; the founding

secretary of the State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company (SVMIC); and a member of the SVMIC Board of Directors from 1975 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph Willoughby evinced his devout religious faith as a member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served for many years as an elder; and

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph Willoughby is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Betty Chastain Willoughby; his son and daughter-in-law, J. Andrew "Andy" and Donna O'Neill Willoughby; his daughter and son-in-law, Beth W. and Jeff Beutel; his grandchildren, Amanda W. (Tommy) Holler, David A. Beutel, and Scott T. Beutel; his great-grandchildren, Hannah Michelle Ballow and Haven Grace Thompson; and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend A.H. and Edna Pennington Willoughby, and his brothers, Colonel J. David Willoughby, Charles E. Willoughby, and Dr. William E. Willoughby; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willoughby 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Joseph Leeper Willoughby, 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. Willoughby.

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