

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 62

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Richard D. Pickell of
Harriman.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Richard D. Pickell; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell 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, the son of Roy and Elsie Hall Pickell, Mr. Pickell was a 1959 graduate of
Lenoir City High School and a member of the 1958 state championship basketball team; he also
played basketball and baseball at Tennessee Wesleyan College; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell began his career in Roane County, coaching the Oliver
Springs High School Bobcats basketball team from 1964 until 1971, when he moved to
Harriman; and

WHEREAS, during his career as boys' basketball coach at Harriman High School, he
had an overall record of 561-360 and led his teams to five district championships, five regional
championships, and three Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA)
appearances; and

WHEREAS, in his final year as head coach, Coach Pickell led the Blue Devils to victory
in the 1995 TSSAA state basketball championship; that same year, he was named East
Tennessee Coach of the Year and Tennessee Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell continued to teach at Harriman High School until his
retirement in 1999, having also served four years as assistant principal and athletic director; and

WHEREAS, Coach Pickell was a three-time TSSAA Class AA Boys Basketball District Coach of the Year and a member of the TSSAA Hall of Fame and Tennessee Wesleyan College Sports Hall of Fame; the Harriman High School gym was named in his honor in 1988, and he was inducted into the Lenoir City High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell evinced his devout religious faith as a member of New Midway Baptist Church, which he served as a deacon; 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, Richard Pickell enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty years, Jean Mull Pickell; he was the proud father of Richard Travis Pickell and Wesley Pickell and the devoted grandfather of Montana, Dacotah, Caleb, and Cason; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his brother-in-law, Larry Mull; his sister-in-law, Gay Lay; his nephews, Brent Lay and Blake Lay; and his great-nephew, Paxton; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell 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 Richard D. Pickell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pickell.

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