

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 70

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas "Tom" Jensen of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas "Tom" Jensen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jensen 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, Tom Jensen attended Knox High School and Fulton High School; he graduated from the University of Tennessee, where he was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jensen served with acumen and alacrity throughout his career, first starting his own company, the Jensen Corporation, before becoming a commercial real estate developer and vice president of Wood Properties; and

WHEREAS, from 1966 to 1978, Tom Jensen represented the 17th House District in the Tennessee General Assembly and served as Minority Leader for eight years; he sponsored legislation for kindergarten for all preschool children and advocated for domestic violence protection programs, completion of the interstate system, public education funds and higher teachers' salaries, historic preservation, and support for the arts; he also initiated the Saturday morning Open Legislative forum in downtown Knoxville, giving citizens direct access to their legislators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jensen served as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), in which role he met with the President in the Oval Office to present NCSL proposals and testified before congressional committees about state legislative issues; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for his community, he served on the boards of a multitude of community organizations, including Fountain City Jaycees, Tennessee Jaycees, Alzheimer's Tennessee, Northside Kiwanis, Leadership Knoxville, YWCA Advisory Board, Boy Scouts, and Keep Knoxville Beautiful; he also served as president of the Workforce Development Board for Knox County, where, for many years, he presented diplomas at the Knox County GED graduation ceremony, a personal passion of his; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jensen served on the Metropolitan Airport Authority for fifteen years, including two years as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners; he was one of the founders of the National Safe Skies Alliance, of which he served as Chief Executive Officer for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jensen was an active member of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, which he served faithfully as a Sunday school teacher and deacon for many years; he also served as co-chairman of the building committee for the new church building; and

WHEREAS, a devout man, Tom Jensen faithfully served in a number of Christian organizations, including Northwest Camp Gideon; he served on the board of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, during which time he went on a mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to help build a church; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Jensen is survived by his loving wife of fifty-eight years, Carolyn Carter; his daughter, Cindy Segers and husband Reverend Mike Segers; his son, Tom Jensen and wife Jeanette Sterling Jensen; his grandchildren, Clay Segers and fiancée Jenna Frost, Caroline McSween and husband Carty McSween, Micallee Segers, and Hunter Jensen; and his sister-in-law, Nancy Arnold; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Christine Scarbrough Jensen and Irving Jensen, and his sister, Ann Waldrep; and

WHEREAS, Tom Jensen 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 Thomas "Tom" Jensen, 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. Jensen.

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