

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Robert William "Bob" Peelle of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert William "Bob" Peelle; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Peelle 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 Toledo, Ohio, on January 13, 1929, Dr. Peelle was the son of William Ruskin Peelle and Nellie "Marie" Mitchell Peelle; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Peelle graduated from high school at age sixteen; he received his bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Rochester in New York and his doctorate in physics from Princeton University in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, while completing his thesis on experimental nuclear documentation, Dr. Peelle moved to Oak Ridge in 1954 and began his lifelong work in nuclear physics at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; when he retired in 1991 as head of nuclear data measurement and evaluation, he was widely recognized in his field for the accuracy and significance of his team's research data on reactor design, shielding, and other nuclear applications from the Oak Ridge Electron Linear Accelerator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Peelle was a founder of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and chaired the health and safety committee of the Clinch River Monitored Retrievable Storage Task Force; he was the first chairperson of the Department of Energy Site Specific Advisory Board for mercury cleanup in East Fork Poplar Creek, and he worked on the Tennessee Department of Health: Oak Ridge Health Agreement Studies Panel to examine local environmental contamination and health impacts; and

WHEREAS, a committed public servant, he was the first Oak Ridge resident elected to the Roane County Commission, on which he served for twenty-two years; he was later elected to the Oak Ridge Charter Commission in 2003. He worked to desegregate Oak Ridge in the 1950s and was an officer on the interracial Community Relations Council; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Peelle was an active and devout member of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, which he served faithfully for more than fifty-five years; 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, Dr. Bob Peelle enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-three years, Elizabeth Brown Peelle, and he was the proud father of Evelyn Jerauld and Annette Sargent and the doting grandfather of William Sargent; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his sister-in-law, Marina Brown, and his nieces and nephews, David Peelle, Kathy Douds, Karyl Petruccione, Doug Peelle, Karen Stone, Tina Onion, Derek Peelle, Lara Brown, and Marco Brown; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Peelle 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. Robert William "Bob" Peelle, 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. Peelle.

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