

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 151

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles R. "Jack" Fitts of Henderson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles R. "Jack" Fitts; and

WHEREAS, Jack Fitts 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 Silerton on October 7, 1924, to J.R. and Lorada Deberry Fitts, Jack Fitts was a graduate of the Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and the Senior Warrant Officer E32 Course at Fort Eustis, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, he entered the United States Army on April 27, 1943, at Camp Forrest and, upon his graduation from basic training at Camp Barkeley, Texas, he was transferred to Camp Ellis, Illinois. He was assigned to the 56th Portable Surgical Hospital and served as a combat medic during the invasion of the Island of Lugon in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitts received a number of ribbons and commendations for his service, including the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Medics Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Unit plaque and insignia, Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal, Bronze Star Battle Participation-Philippines Campaign, Philippine Liberation Medal with Bronze Star, Philippine Citation Medal, Bronze Service Arrowhead for the invasion of Luzon Island, Bronze Service Star on Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, and Presidential Unit Citation Badge; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the United States Army on January 26, 1946, Jack Fitts joined the 90th Air Group Reserve, serving until April 11, 1947, when he joined the newly

formed Tennessee Army National Guard Unit in Henderson as a charter member and 2nd Lieutenant Motor Transport Officer; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he also served as foreman of the Chester County Grand Jury for twenty years; he was elected mayor of Henderson in 1980 and ably led the city for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitts was discharged from the Tennessee Army National Guard on October 7, 1984, at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4th Class with forty years of creditable service; and

WHEREAS, a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, Jack Fitts served his community as the chairman of the West Tennessee Heart Association for two terms; he was also a charter member of the Henderson Civitan Club, where he served as president for two terms and was elected Civitan of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he evinced his devout faith as a member of First United Methodist Church, which he served for many 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, Jack Fitts enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of seventy-two years, Imogene Valentine Bulliner Fitts, and was the proud father of Candice Kay Grant; he will be lovingly remembered by his grandson, Peyton Frank, and his great-grandchildren, Sydney Frank, Hannah Frank, and Elliot Frank; and

WHEREAS, he 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 Charles R. "Jack" Fitts, 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. Fitts.

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