

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 191

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John T. Milburn Rogers of Greeneville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John T. Milburn Rogers; and

WHEREAS, John Rogers 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 on May 31, 1949, to John Wesley Rogers and Leonia Ernestine Williams Rogers, John Rogers attended Central High School in Chattanooga; he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a degree in history and the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rogers was one of the most accomplished lawyers in the State of Tennessee; he practiced in the areas of personal injury and criminal defense at his firm, John Rogers Law Group, and was the only attorney in Greeneville and Northeast Tennessee to be board certified in civil law, civil pretrial practice, and criminal law by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization, the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and the National Board of Civil Pretrial Practice; and

WHEREAS, throughout his prolific, forty-year legal career, he served as president of the Tennessee Association for Justice from 1983 to 1984; the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers from 1990 to 1991; the Federal Bar Association, Northeast Tennessee Chapter from 2000 to 2001; the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tennessee Chapter from both 1999 to 2000 and 2007 to 2008; and the American Board of Trial Advocates, Southeastern Chapter from 2009 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rogers was a Life Member of the Tennessee Association for Justice, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, a Sustaining Member and Stalwart of the American Association for Justice, and a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation; he was also a member of both the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forum; and

WHEREAS, John Rogers was honored as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers from 2007 to 2013; one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Tennessee by the American Trial Lawyers Association; and one of the Top 100 Tennessee Super Lawyers by his peers in *Mid-South Super Lawyers Magazine* in 2006; for more than two decades, he was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of civil personal injury, criminal white collar, and criminal non-white collar, and he was voted by his peers as an AV Preeminent Lawyer in Martindale-Hubbell; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he became a founder of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at the University of Tennessee College of Law, and he was a noted lecturer who spoke on behalf of the Tennessee Association for Justice; and

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

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of forty-nine years, Donna Crosby Rogers; his daughters, Trenny Rogers Fuller, Jenny Coques Rogers, Emily Susannah Rogers, and Shelley Bryn Rogers; his grandchildren, Olivia Crosby Fuller, Elliot Asher Fuller, Effie Coques Fellers, Hallie Milburn Fellers, Henry Edison Fellers, Sullivan Emile Rogers, Maeve Vere Rogers, and Esmée Lora Frances Mesh; his step-grandchildren, David Aaron Mesh and Hannah Ruth Mesh; his step great-grandchild, Riley Madison Cox; his sisters, Kathy Rogers Davis and Cindy Rogers Testerman; and a host of family and close friends; and

WHEREAS, John Rogers 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 John T. Milburn Rogers, 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. Rogers.

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