

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 778

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James "Jim" Sumner of Kingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James "Jim" Sumner; and

WHEREAS, Jim Sumner 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 Knoxville, Mr. Sumner was the son of James and Francis Sumner; he was a graduate of West High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he played trumpet in the Pride of the Southland Band. He also completed graduate coursework in mechanical engineering and engineering management; and

WHEREAS, Jim Sumner served as the Deputy Program Manager for the Highly Enriched Uranium Transparency Program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he monitored the down-blending of weapons-grade uranium from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons; he also received a patent for novel instrumentation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sumner was then named Program Director and Division Director at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, positions he held until his retirement; he took pride in his work supporting nonproliferation missions while managing efforts to secure at-risk nuclear materials and equipment; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a program manager for the University of Tennessee Institute for Nuclear Security at the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy; and

WHEREAS, a Leadership Roane graduate, Mr. Sumner was a past president of the Kingston Rotary and served on the board of directors for the Michael Dunn Center; he also lent his time and talents to the Roane County United Way, where he was a volunteer tax preparer; 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, Jim Sumner enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Deborah Helfenberger Sumner. He is lovingly remembered by his brother-in-law, David Helfenberger; his sister-in-law, Diane Helfenberger Clark; and his cousins Tom Woosley, Tom Cope, Patsy Herring, and Susan Ledbetter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sumner 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 James "Jim" Sumner, 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. Sumner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.