

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1028

By Rose

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Marvin Lecile Harris of Collierville.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Marvin Lecile Harris;
and

WHEREAS, born on November 6, 1936, in Cormorant, Mississippi, to Rubye and Marvin Harris, Lecile Harris 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, Mr. Harris was raised in Collierville, and he attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he played for the school's football team; and

WHEREAS, a rodeo clown for over half a century, Lecile Harris began his career in rodeo as a bull rider and then a fill-in bullfighter while he was in high school; known as the "Dean of Rodeo Clowns/Bullfighters," he performed throughout the United States as well as Canada, Europe, and Africa. He was named the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's Clown of the Year in 1992, 1994, 1995, and 1996 and was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Bull-riding Hall of Fame, Bull-fighters - Legends in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his estimable career as a rodeo clown, Mr. Harris owned and operated a sign making company, which he started in college, and he was a session drummer and songwriter in the Memphis area during the 1950s and 1960s; he also had a successful on-screen career, spending five years on the popular television series *Hee Haw* and appearing in such films as *Walking Tall: The Final Chapter*, *The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James*, and *W.W. and the Dixie Dance Kings*; and

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

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Ethel Bledsoe Harris; his three children, Matt (Joy) Harris, Chuck Harris, and Christi (Donny) Lalonde; his sister, Mary Jo Wilson; his nephew, Jimmy Wilson; his niece, Wanda Moyer; his grandchildren, Justin (Dana) Harris, Indie (Cody) Rhoda, Dylan Lalonde, and Bailey Lalonde; and his great-grandchildren, JJ Harris, Cole Harris, Harper Harris, Logan Kendrick, and Coy Rhoda; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris 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 we 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 Marvin Lecile Harris, 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. Harris.

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.