

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1281

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Grady Wayne Clark of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Grady Wayne Clark; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Clark 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 Candler, North Carolina, Wayne Clark was the son of William Frederick Clark and Lela Bennett Clark and grew up in Asheville, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, after his admission to the Naval Academy was denied because of color blindness, Dr. Clark attended Clemson University and graduated in 1944 with a double major in chemistry and physics; and

WHEREAS, as cadet commander of the ROTC corps at Clemson, which was then a military school, he was issued a commission as a 2nd lieutenant. He resigned the commission when his draft board indicated it was recommending that he be sent to the new science city in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, having other ideas, the United States Army instead assigned Dr. Clark to chemical warfare duty as a private. When he was scheduled for the European front with his unit, he was instead sent to Officer Candidate School, where he graduated as a 2nd lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, with the war in Europe ending, he was sent to Japan as part of the occupation forces. In the fall of 1946, he was released from military service to return to Clemson to teach physics to incoming freshman; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Wayne Clark entered the University of Virginia to work on his graduate degree, and subsequently graduated in 1951 with his PhD and as a member of the Raven Society. The same week as his graduation, he married the love of his life, Patricia Pumphrey; and

WHEREAS, several career opportunities took him from the university, where he was employed in the University of Virginia's College of Engineering, to Tonawanda, New York, to work at Linde Air Products, a subsidiary of Union Carbide; and

WHEREAS, at Union Carbide, he continued work on crystal growth, improving the asterism of the star sapphire perfected by Linde during the war. He also grew the synthetic star ruby. One of his stones was used in developing the laser; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Dr. Clark returned to Richmond, Virginia, to conduct work at the Virginia Institute for Scientific Research before finally getting a chance to work at that science city in Tennessee, Oak Ridge, where he was hired in 1958 as a group leader in crystal physics; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, he won an IR 100 award for directional solidification of metal oxide-metal eutectic composites as well as the Alvin Weinberg Award for Visionary Research. During his extensive career, he gave five invited technical papers, co-authored two invited technical papers, and wrote forty-six papers related to crystal growth; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Clark had thirty-nine patent applications, relating to arc torch-crystal growth, flame fusion burner-crystal magnetic oxides, and a method of varying the electrical conductivity of metal oxide-metal composites; thirteen patent applications were withdrawn for corporate reasons; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clark retired in 1985 to set up a small lab to continue his work, receiving two SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) awards, and he was part-owner and manager of Adroit Inc., an office supply and printing firm; and

WHEREAS, always civic minded, Wayne Clark served his community in a number of capacities. Upon coming to Oak Ridge, he chaired the city council's Human Relations Advisory Committee to help further integration in the city and was a founder and president of Grove

Development Corporation, a local development corporation, which was a citizens' economic development effort to create and encourage small businesses; and

WHEREAS, he served on the governor's Private Industry Council, which operated the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) under the auspices of State and federal programs to offer unemployed persons job training and help in finding employment. He also served on the Oak Ridge Committee for Higher Education (ORCHE) and, with his wife, offered land for Roane State Community College's Oak Ridge Branch Campus; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Clark was a member of Rotary, served as a University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associate, and was active in the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, for several years, he raised Angus cattle and was a member of the Anderson County Cattle Association. Late in life, he developed an active interest in preserving and restoring the American chestnut tree; and

WHEREAS, he was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge, which he served in numerous capacities over the years; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Clark was an avid supporter of the Oak Ridge High School Wildcat football team, and since arriving in Oak Ridge in 1958, had attended every home game and some away games with his wife; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, he made a number of international trips to Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, South America, the Galapagos Islands, Italy, and France; cruises around the Panama Canal, Istanbul to Athens, and the St. Lawrence in Canada; and windjammer cruises off the coast of New England; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Wayne Clark is survived by his beloved wife of sixty-eight years, Patricia Pumphrey Clark, seven nieces, and one nephew; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Clark 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 Grady Wayne Clark, 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. Clark.

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.