

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7025 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Debra K. Johnson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to honor the life of Tennessee Department of Correction Correctional Administrator, Debra K. Johnson, who tragically was taken in the line of duty on August 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Debra Johnson was a brave and dedicated public servant to the State of Tennessee, having served with the Department of Correction for thirty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson began her career with the Department of Correction as a Correctional Officer at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville in 1981. While at the Tennessee Prison for Women, Ms. Johnson held the positions of Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Unit Manager; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was promoted to Deputy Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in 2005, and in 2009, she was named the Deputy Warden of the Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was promoted to Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in 2011, and in 2013, she was named the Warden of the Turney Center Industrial Complex in Only; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was promoted to Correctional Administrator in 2016 and most recently directly oversaw the Western Region of the State, which includes the Wardens of the Northwest Correctional Complex in Tiptonville, the West Tennessee State Prison in Henning, the Women's Therapeutic Residential Center in Henning, and the Mark Luttrell Transitional Center in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a much loved and admired member of the Department of Correction family, Debra Johnson was an experienced and knowledgeable corrections leader who maintained positivity and a supportive nature with her fellow employees and offenders alike; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was viewed as a mentor and role model by departmental employees and was nominated numerous times for recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Department of Correction; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was dedicated to her faith as an active and devout member of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville, where she served for many years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Debra Johnson is survived by her mother, Ms. Annie Porter; her son, Stanley Johnson, Jr.; her daughter, Shernaye Johnson, Ph.D.; her son, Mychal Austin; her sisters, Sherry Porter and Daphane Christopher; her brother, Adrian Batey; and her seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Debra Johnson will be fondly remembered for her shopping excursions and her affinity for Coca-Cola, but most importantly she will be remembered for her love and contributions to her loved ones and work family; and

WHEREAS, Debra Johnson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in her public life as a law enforcement officer and corrections professional, compassion and loyalty in her private life, and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the bountiful life of this exceptional state employee, correctional professional, 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 life of Debra K. Johnson, reflecting warmly upon her impeccable character and her 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 Ms. Johnson.

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