

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7030 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Orin Bass, Sr., of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James Orin Bass, Sr., a Nashville attorney for more than eight decades and an influential business and political leader in this State; and

WHEREAS, James Bass 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 Hendersonville on July 12, 1910, Mr. Bass was the son of Francis Marion Bass and Sadie Dunn Bass; and

WHEREAS, a 1928 graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy, James Bass received his bachelor's degree from the University of the South at Sewanee in 1931 and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1934; upon his graduation, he returned to Nashville and joined Bass, Berry & Sims, the law firm his father established in 1922 with F.A. Berry and Cecil Sims; and

WHEREAS, drawn to public service, Mr. Bass served as a member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly from 1936 to 1939, during which time he introduced legislation to replace the Justice of the Peace system of small claims courts in Nashville with a system of General Sessions Courts; he then served in the Senate from 1940 to 1942 and was instrumental in the adoption of the Civil Service System in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, James Bass joined the United States Army in 1942 and honorably served as Judge Advocate on the staff of General Terry Allen, Commander of the 104th Infantry Division, which fought as a part of the U.S. First Army and the First Canadian Army in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany; he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service; and

WHEREAS, upon his return home to Nashville, Mr. Bass rejoined Bass, Berry & Sims and became a leader in the growing firm; throughout his career, he shaped the careers of young attorneys in the office and helped grow the firm from six attorneys to 300, with offices in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, and Washington, D.C.; he continued to visit the firm and mentor young colleagues at the age of 108; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community and profession, he served as chair of the newly formed Metro Human Relations Committee in 1963, which negotiated the successful desegregation of lunch counters and other facilities in Nashville; he was a longtime member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and served as president of the Nashville Bar Association in 1952; and

WHEREAS, James Bass was an active and devout member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; 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, James Bass was the proud father of James Orin Bass, Jr., Edwin Warner Bass, Francis M. Bass II, and Susan Richardson Bass Bowen and the devoted grandfather of Nancy B. Cox, Susanne B. Young, James O. Bass III, E. Warner Bass, Jr., Elizabeth B. Lamar, John G. Bass, Margaret B. Tyler, Francis M. Bass III, Caroline Carter Bass, James N. Bowen, and J. Scott Bowen, Jr.; he is lovingly remembered by his twenty-seven great-grandchildren, his great-great-grandchild, and his nieces, Ann Phillips Harmer and Milbrey Waller Andrews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-three years, Susanne Warner Bass; his parents; his brother, Francis M. Bass, Jr.; and his sister, Mary Blackman Bass Phillips; and

WHEREAS, James Bass 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 Orin Bass, Sr., 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. Bass.

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