

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 408

By Daniel

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kyle Copenhaver Testerman of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kyle Copenhaver Testerman; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Testerman 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. Testerman was born and raised in Knoxville, where he lived for most of his life. A talented athlete, he was a member of the Knoxville High School 1951 state championship basketball team; he attended the University of Tennessee on a basketball scholarship and finished his college experience on a tennis scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Testerman's true athletic passion was for tennis, and he co-founded the Knoxville Racquet Club and was instrumental in the development of the tennis courts at Tyson Park; in his later years, he was honored by the city with the dedication and renaming of the facility as the Kyle C. Testerman Tennis Complex at Tyson Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman earned his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he was a business leader and lawyer, but his greatest pride was being a dedicated public servant. From 1969 through 1971, Mr. Testerman served on the Knoxville City Council, and in 1972 he became Knoxville's youngest elected mayor, winning his first term at the age of thirty-five. He was elected to a second term in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman felt his most significant accomplishment while in public office was the consolidation of the city and county public school systems. Also among his notable achievements are the rescue from closure and revitalization of the Knoxville Zoo, the bringing of

the World's Fair to Knoxville in 1982, the establishment of the first Knoxville Coalition for the Homeless, the passing of the liquor-by-the-drink referendum, and the promotion of citywide diversity through the establishment of The Beck Cultural Exchange Center and the Knoxville Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Testerman was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin Harrison and Lucille Hanley Testerman, and two brothers, Ben Jr. and Dan; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his three children, Muffett Testerman Buckner and spouse Jim, Benjamin Long Testerman, and Janet Testerman Creswell and spouse Joey; and by their mother, Janet Long Testerman Crossley. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Misha Testerman, Clark and Brooke Buckner, Elie Creswell, and Georgie Creswell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Testerman was a true Tennessean and deeply devoted Knoxvillian who dedicated much of his life to serving the needs of his community and who 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 remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kyle Copenhaver Testerman, 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. Testerman.

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