

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 160

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Charles Maurice Johnson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Maurice Johnson of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Charles Johnson 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, the son of Maurice and Grace Talley Johnson, Charles Maurice Johnson was born on April 19, 1917, in Montgomery County on the Johnson family homestead that he affectionately referred to as “the Tin Cup Hollow Farm”; and

WHEREAS, moving to Nashville at an early age, Charles Johnson was a member of the first graduating class of historic East High School in 1935; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation’s Greatest Generation, Mr. Johnson proudly served in the armed forces during World War II for four years, seeing action in five major European campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor; and

WHEREAS, employed by the Veterans Administration in 1946, Charles Johnson participated in the approval of the first GI loan made in Tennessee and enjoyed an exemplary career with that organization, retiring in 1977 after serving many years as the state director of the Veterans Administration Loan Guaranty Program; and

WHEREAS, entering private business after his retirement, Mr. Johnson opened his own real estate appraisal firm and actively continued in that business until he was ninety years old; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Richland Place Retirement Community, which was designed by his son, Mr. Johnson was an avid golfer and hit a hole in one when he was eighty-five years of age; and

WHEREAS, Charles Johnson was a faithful member of Calvary United Methodist Church for over fifty years, during which time he served in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his parents and his wife of fifty years, Martha Jean Cawthon Johnson, Mr. Johnson is survived by his two sons, local architect Charles Maurice (Vikki) Johnson Jr. and retired assistant director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Nat E. (Jane) Johnson; four grandchildren, Taylor Johnson, Preston (Erin) Johnson, Keats (Phil) Leach, and Whitney Johnson; and one great-granddaughter, Collins Grace Leach; as well as his dear friend and companion, Helen P. Black; and

WHEREAS, Charles Maurice Johnson 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, seldom do gentlemen of his stature walk among us, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional businessman, resolute public servant, and extraordinary human being; now, therefore,

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

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