

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 272

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David F. Bautista of Elizabethton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel David F. Bautista, United States Army, Retired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bautista 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, a native Tennessean, David Bautista was born on July 24, 1939, to Raymond Bautista and Georgia Burrow Bautista; and

WHEREAS, from an early age, Mr. Bautista never shied from positions of responsibility; his strong swimming skills led him to serve as a lifeguard at the Franklin Club Pool in Elizabethton as a youth, and he was an outstanding member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at East Tennessee State University, from which he received a bachelor of science degree; and

WHEREAS, David Bautista proudly served his nation as a member of the United States Army and retired at the rank of Colonel after thirty years of meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bautista received a Judicial Doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and entered private practice in Elizabethton, where, throughout his fifteen years in practice, he developed a reputation as an expert practitioner of law; and

WHEREAS, committed to the noble precepts of public service, David Bautista served his fellow Tennesseans as a district public defender, a post to which he was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, Mr. Bautista became an adjunct professor of law at East Tennessee State University and continued to engage in many of his favorite activities,

including hunting, horseback riding, and water sports, and he even found time to play the role of Judge Richardson in a reenactment of *Liberty!* at Sycamore Shoals State Park; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciated the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, David Bautista was a founder of the Carter County Tomorrow program and rendered astute service as a member of many civic and professional organizations, including Kiwanis, Elks Club, Moose Club, Captain Lynn H. Folsom V.F.W. Post 2166, American Legion, and Elizabethton Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong member of Westside Christian Church, Mr. Bautista was also deeply devoted to his family; and

WHEREAS, David Bautista is survived by his wife, Sandy Bautista; stepson, Johnny Bowling and his wife, Christie; niece, Lisa Ensor and her husband, Ronnie; nephew, Tim Bautista and his wife, Snyte; two stepgrandsons, Jonathan Bowling and Nathaniel Bowling; two great-nephews, Bailey Ensor and Richard Bautista; and great-niece, Lauren Bautista; and he is further survived by two special friends, Mary Gaye McKinney and Starr Nave; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Paul Bautista; and

WHEREAS, David Bautista 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Colonel David F. Bautista, United States Army, Retired, 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. Bautista.

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