

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 274

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to commend Senator James F. Kyle Jr. for his honorable and distinguished service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those fellow legislators who performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator James F. "Jim" Kyle Jr. is one such distinguished public servant, who served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction during his thirty-one-year tenure as a member of the Tennessee State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jim Kyle has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Memphis and Shelby County, and he served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, born on October 14, 1950, in Memphis, James Fellow Kyle Jr. is the son of James F. and Louise Norwood Kyle, and he attended primary and secondary schools in Memphis prior to earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1973; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the legal profession, Senator Kyle received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1976 from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and practiced with the firm of Chambers, Kyle and Durham before becoming a founding partner and lawyer for Domico Kyle in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1983, the good people of Memphis evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Jim Kyle by electing him as their senator, a position in which he performed admirably, enjoying the third-longest tenure in the Tennessee Senate of any member in the history of that august body; and

WHEREAS, a Senate member of the 93rd–108th General Assemblies, Senator Jim Kyle was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, a recognized champion of the Democratic Party, Senator Jim Kyle was elected by his peers to serve as Democratic Leader in the Senate for the 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, and 108th General Assemblies and served as Democratic Caucus Chair for the 95th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a member of eight of the nine standing committees of the Senate during his tenure, Senator Kyle earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and astute service as a member of the Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee; Education Committee; Energy, Conservation, and Tourism Committee; Finance, Ways and Means Committee; General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee; Government Operations Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS, his committee service included tenures as the vice chair of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee for the 102nd and 103rd General Assemblies, vice chair of the Energy, Conservation, and Tourism Committee for the 97th, 98th, 99th, and 100th General Assemblies, secretary of the Judiciary Committee for the 101st General Assembly, and secretary/2nd vice chair of the Calendar Committee for the 105th, 106th, 107th, and 108th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process of the Senate, Senator Jim Kyle also served as chair of the Rules Committee during the 94th and 104th General Assemblies, and was an esteemed member of the Calendar Committee and the Delayed Bills Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served as the chair of the Shelby County Delegation in 2009, as the chair of the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections for the 96th–100th General Assemblies, and as a member of the Joint Business Tax Committee, the Joint Council on Pensions and Insurance, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and the Joint Government Operations Subcommittees on Judiciary and Government, and Commerce, Labor, Transportation, and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities as well as the privileges of leadership and citizenship, Jim Kyle has given his time and energies to many professional, community, civic, and charitable organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Memphis, which he served as president; the Memphis Kiwanis Club; the Greater Memphis State, Inc.; Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association; the Memphis Urban League; Memphis Heritage, Inc.; Tau Kappa Epsilon; Phi Delta Phi; Memphis Bar Association; and the Board of Governors of the American Correctional Association; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kyle has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career, including being named the 2013 Africa in April Honorary Chairman; the 2008 Legislator of the Year, Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association; 1999 President's Award, Tennessee Council of Teachers of English; 1996 Legislator of the Year, Domestic Violence Task Force; 1992 Legislator of the Year, County Officials Association of Tennessee; 1992 Legislator of the Year, Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference; 1991 Legislator of the Year, Shelby County Deputy Sheriffs Association; and 1985 Henry Toll Fellowship from the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, ending his legislative career while continuing his public service in the judicial branch, Senator Jim Kyle won election to the bench as Chancellor of the Thirtieth District Chancery Court Part II for Shelby County on August 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Jim Kyle is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Senator Sara Kyle, and their four children and son-in-law: Sarah Louise Kyle Gilmer and Brad Gilmer, Mary Lelia Kyle, James Fellow Kyle III, and Dora Caroline Belle Kyle; and

WHEREAS, Senator James Kyle Jr. is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his distinguished tenure in this body; 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 hereby honor Senator James F. Kyle Jr. for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service to the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County, and extend to Chancellor Kyle our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Senator Kyle as a token of our esteem with this final clause omitted from such copy.