

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 535

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice William Muecke "Mickey" Barker.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice William Muecke "Mickey" Barker; and

WHEREAS, Justice Barker was a dedicated and highly respected jurist who leaves an indelible legacy of service to the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, a Chattanooga native and Signal Mountain resident, Chief Justice Mickey Barker earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Cincinnati School of Law; and

WHEREAS, after a brief enlistment with the U.S. Medical Corps., he was appointed to the bench in 1983 by Governor Lamar Alexander, serving as a circuit court judge in Chattanooga until 1995, at which time he was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Don Sundquist; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Governor Sundquist appointed Mickey Barker to the Tennessee Supreme Court, and in 2005, Justice Barker's colleagues selected him to serve as chief justice, in which capacity he served until his retirement in 2008, at which point he returned to private practice with the Chambliss Law Firm in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his retirement, Chief Justice Barker served as chairman of the Tennessee Judicial Council, the Tennessee Code Commission, the Supreme Court Building Commission, and the State Law Library Commission; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barker gained a reputation as a fair, impartial jurist; during the 2014 contested Supreme Court retention election, he was an effective spokesperson who was instrumental in the campaign against partisan politics in the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, revered among those on the bar and bench, Chief Justice Mickey Barker was a member of the American Law Institute and served on the board of directors of the Conference of Chief Justices, which he also served as chairman of the Problem-Solving Committee; and

WHEREAS, although he reached the heights of his profession, Chief Justice Barker never forgot his roots; he was a straight-talker and remained true to himself throughout his distinguished career, all while maintaining his trademark sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barker 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 this exceptional attorney, judge, justice, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice William Muecke "Mickey" Barker, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.