

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Janet Hooks of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Janet Hooks; and

WHEREAS, Janet Hooks was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime community leader, Janet Hooks rendered sterling service as a member of the Memphis City Council for sixteen years, having first been elected in 1991, and was part of the council's first Black majority; and

WHEREAS, during her years of service as a Memphis City Councilwoman, she was a champion for additional funding for Memphis City Schools and detailed reviews of city services, and she built relationships with city division directors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hooks resigned from the Memphis City Council in 2005 to accept a position with the administration of Mayor Willie Herenton; she became the Director of Parks and Neighborhoods during the administration of interim Mayor Myron Lowery and continued in that post under Mayor A.C. Wharton; and

WHEREAS, at the time of her passing, she had served as a special advisor to the Shelby County Clerk since early April of 2023, having been called back to public service by the Shelby County Commission to advise Shelby County Clerk Wanda Halbert; and

WHEREAS, Janet Hooks was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she was a skilled cook, an avid reader, and a faithful member of Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband, Michael Hooks, Sr.; her children, Michael Hooks, Jr., Kristin Hooks, and Marcus Hooks; special second daughter, Tami Sawyer;

her daughter-in-law, Judge Kenya Hooks; two granddaughters, Morgan Hooks and Miranda Hooks; and her two sisters, Anna Battle and Pamela Donan; and

WHEREAS, Janet Hooks leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Janet Hooks, reflecting on her impeccable character and her 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 Mrs. Hooks.

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.