

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Allan Sidney Curtis of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Allan Sidney Curtis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis 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 former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, a position to which he was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter, Allan Curtis provided forty years of meritorious service with the Department of Revenue before retiring in 1990 as the Director of the Division of Franchise and Excise Tax; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Allan Curtis attended East High School and enlisted in the United States Army promptly after graduation; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation's "Greatest Generation," Mr. Curtis proudly served with the 178th Army Corps of Engineers in Europe during World War II, performing his duties with honor and courage; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Middle Tennessee State University, Allan Curtis earned a master's degree from George Peabody College and later obtained a law degree from the Nashville School of Law, during which time he worked for the Tennessee Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1950, Mr. Curtis began his public service career with the State of Tennessee as an employee of the Tennessee Department of Revenue, which was then known as the Tennessee Department of Finance and Taxation; and

WHEREAS, Allan Curtis was an exemplary and dedicated employee, winning promotion to Supervising Examiner in 1954 and to the post of Acting Director of the Franchise, Excise Tax

Unit in 1957 before being named as the Director of the Franchise, Excise Tax Division in 1963; and

WHEREAS, under his direction over the next twenty-seven years, the division grew from sixteen employees with annual franchise and excise tax collections of \$60 million to eighty-four employees and annual tax collections of over \$640 million; and

WHEREAS, retiring from the Tennessee Department of Revenue in 1990 after forty years of distinguished service with a solid reputation as the best tax administrator ever employed by the State of Tennessee, Mr. Curtis was named the Deputy Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance by Governor Ned McWherter in April of 1990; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1994, Allan Curtis was appointed as the commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance and he served that post until January of 1995, rendering distinguished service and resolute administration of the operations and functions of one of the most complex and demanding departments in Tennessee state government; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary civil servant whose sterling work ethic and leadership won him the respect and admiration of his fellow state employees, Allan Curtis was instrumental in the formation of the Department of Revenue's credit union, a predecessor of the current state employees' credit union, and initiated the establishment of the Tennessee State Employees Association, playing a primary role in the first years of its existence; and

WHEREAS, an active volunteer and supporter of the Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross, he enjoyed driving a van to pick up blood throughout rural Tennessee and Kentucky in support of the organization's effort across the region; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual individual, Mr. Curtis faithfully attended Nashville First Church of the Nazarene, where he was a longtime member of the Pate Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife of fifty-seven years, Dorothy Stevens Curtis, he is survived by his daughter, Susan Curtis, his son, Allan Curtis, a sister-in-law, Louise Allsbrooks, his niece, Ramona Ann Robertson, his nephew, Ronnie Allsbrooks, and many other dear family members and loyal friends; and

WHEREAS, a gracious gentleman who embodied the ideals of community service and lived a life of purpose, Mr. Curtis 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 this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this truly exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Allan Sidney Curtis, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his extraordinary contributions to the people of Tennessee, 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. Curtis.

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