

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 812

By Oliver

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Shirley A. Pierre O'Giste.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley A. Pierre O'Giste; and

WHEREAS, Shirley O'Giste 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, born in Port of Spain in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on March 11, 1950, Mrs. O'Giste was the daughter of Augustus and Elaine Pierre and the first of eight children; and

WHEREAS, before the age of ten, she was raised by her grandfather, Augustus Bob, in Mason Hall, Tobago, and then after his passing, she was reunited with her mother and helped raise her younger siblings in Trinidad; and

WHEREAS, as a student of the Southern Academy Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) School in San Fernando, Trinidad, Mrs. O'Giste attended an evangelistic crusade with a friend, and against her parents' wishes, she continued to attend meetings; her parents grew curious, and eventually, the entire family was baptized and became Seventh-Day Adventists; and

WHEREAS, following her graduation, Shirley O'Giste went on to attend Trinizuela Technical and Vocational College, where she excelled in her training as an executive secretary; she often boasted of her ability to type 120 words per minute and use Pitman shorthand; and

WHEREAS, when Mrs. O'Giste was seventeen, her parents moved her family to Brooklyn, New York; she began her adult career at the Manhattan Children's Center and

afterward worked at the Elmhurst Hospital, where she was able to show off her exceptional administrative skills; and

WHEREAS, she later worked at Nabisco in Piscataway, New Jersey, operated a home-based daycare, and ultimately retired from Genesis Healthcare and Rockland Place in Wilmington, Delaware; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to her relationship with Christ, Mrs. O'Giste started ministry with her husband in 1974, and together, the pair pastored in the North Eastern Conference of SDA at the Lighthouse Tabernacle and Sharon SDA churches in New York; they went on to minister churches in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland; and

WHEREAS, throughout her time in ministry, Mrs. O'Giste held several positions, including teacher's aide, nurse's assistant, clerk and typist, and receptionist, among others; and

WHEREAS, Shirley O'Giste was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'Giste enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of fifty-one years, Augustus, whom she met while singing in the Fellowship Clefs Youth Choir at the Christian Fellowship SDA Church; also left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Aundra Keotisha Candace O'Giste Sparks; her son, Augustus F. O'Giste II; her grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Shirley A. Pierre O'Giste 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 the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Shirley A. Pierre O'Giste, reflecting fondly upon 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. O'Giste.

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.