

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 209

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John "Jay" Meadors West of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John "Jay" Meadors West of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Jay West 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 member of a prominent Nashville family, Jay West was the son of Mary Humes Meadors West and Raphael Benjamin West, who served as Mayor of Nashville for many years; he attended Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon and was a graduate of Belmont University and the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, upon entering public service, Mr. West worked in Washington, D.C., as a legislative assistant for the United States House of Representatives for two years; and

WHEREAS, returning to Nashville, Jay West decided to follow in his father's footsteps and sought election to an at-large seat on the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Council in 1983; and

WHEREAS, upon winning the election, Mr. West, at the age of thirty-two, became the youngest person at that time to ever serve in one of the Metro Council's county-wide seats; he served three consecutive terms as a Metro Councilman and ably represented Nashville and his peers across the State as vice president of the Tennessee Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Jay West won election to the position of vice mayor of Nashville under then-Mayor Phil Bredesen and presided over the forty-member Metro Council for a four-year term of office; and

WHEREAS, with a vast understanding of the legislative process, Jay West enjoyed a highly successful lobbying career that spanned over three decades and included work on a variety of issues and concerns, including education, home health care, zoning matters, licensure, water and wastewater management, financial and insurance matters, social security, and workers' compensation; and

WHEREAS, the executive director of the County Officials Association of Tennessee at the time of his passing, Mr. West had previously served as executive director of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee for ten years and spent five years as the executive director of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the Consulting Engineers of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West was a member of the 1997 class of Leadership Nashville and the 2007 class of Leadership Middle Tennessee; he was also a graduate of the Advance Legislative Institute of the Library of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Jay West was an active and devout member of Faith Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband and father, Mr. West was also deeply devoted to his family, and enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Diane Dunnebacke West, and his daughter, Andrea West Doll; and

WHEREAS, Jay West 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 pause to 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 TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John "Jay" Meadors West, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character 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. West.

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