

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 168

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Michael Norton
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Michael "Mike" Norton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norton 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, as a founder of the law firm Bone McAllester Norton and mentor to generations of attorneys, Mr. Norton always demonstrated the utmost expertise, integrity, and dedication to upholding the highest principles of the law; and

WHEREAS, born on March 23, 1948, in Ripley, Mississippi, Mike Norton grew up in McMinnville, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee, summa cum laude, in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norton received his Juris Doctor degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1974, and worked as legal counsel for the Tennessee Department of Revenue from 1975 to 1978, in which position he played a key role in the revision of a number of State laws affecting corporate tax and inheritance; and

WHEREAS, entering private practice in 1978, he distinguished himself as an adept practitioner of the law, specializing in mergers and acquisitions, municipal bonds, State and local taxes, corporate law, and securities; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he established the firm of Bone McAllester Norton with his partners of thirty-five years, Charles W. Bone and Sam J. McAllester III, along with Stacey A. Garrett; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his expertise in corporate and tax law, Mr. Norton became a nationally recognized authority on the deaccessioning of art by colleges and universities, and played a central role in Fisk University's successful efforts to share the school's Alfred Stieglitz Collection with the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, his many professional achievements aside, Mike Norton is fondly remembered for his enthusiastic dedication to a wide range of interests, from his penchant for gourmet cooking to creating collage artworks of postage stamps; and

WHEREAS, another of his many pursuits was Nashville history, having published an essay on Theodore Roosevelt's 1907 visit to Nashville and another on Georgia O'Keefe's gift of the Alfred Stieglitz Art Collection to Fisk University; moreover, his extensive collection of more than 4,500 historic Nashville postcards is now housed in the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norton became a confirmed Episcopalian in 1993, and was an active and devout member of St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel at Vanderbilt University, where he faithfully served for many years as a member of the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Mike Norton was preceded in death by his mother, Pauline Priddy Norton, and is survived by his father, Charles G. Norton, and his sister, Patricia Norton Bryan (Wesley); and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Mr. Norton enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife of twenty-five years, Susan Tosh Norton, and was the proud father of four children: sons, Michael Benjamin Norton (Jeannie) and William Forrest Norton, and daughters, Leslie Wallace Congdon (Emil) and Claire Compton Wallace; and the adored grandfather of six grandchildren: Maxwell Paul Norton, Elliott Benjamin Norton, Alice Porter Congdon, Virginia Tosh Congdon, Everson Boone Congdon, and Wallace Ehrenberg Congdon; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his nieces and nephews; his law firm family at Bone McAllester Norton; his church family at St. Augustine's Chapel at Vanderbilt University; and his devoted friend and caregiver, Faye Garretson; and

WHEREAS, Mike Norton 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 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles Michael Norton, 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. Norton.

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