

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 182

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Robert E.  
"Bobby" Carter of Madison County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and colleague, Robert E. "Bobby" Carter; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carter 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, he traveled down many interesting and distinctive paths in his life; he was a statesman, a family man, a corporate executive, a philanthropist, an athlete, and, above all else, Senator Bobby Carter was a man who feared and loved God; and

WHEREAS, the son of a preacher, Robert E. Carter was born on October 7, 1939, in Scott County, Virginia, to Rev. Robert Todd and Estelle Pippin Carter, both of whom preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Carter attended Virginia High School in Bristol, where he excelled academically and athletically, and received all-state honors in basketball for his prowess on the court; and

WHEREAS, he matriculated to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he became a three-year letter winner in basketball from 1958 through 1961; in 1961, he won the Team Before Self Award. He also excelled academically, earning a bachelor's and a master's degree in education; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carter served with acumen and alacrity in every role he sought to fulfill; he taught and coached at Beaver High School in Pennsylvania, and at Humboldt High School and Union University in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he also had a successful career with the Coca-Cola Bottling Works in Jackson, from which he retired as executive vice president; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Carter submitted himself to public service in elected office, serving as senator for the 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District from 1994 through 2002; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the 99<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, and 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies, Senator Carter earned a sterling reputation of integrity and commitment, and, throughout his tenure as a legislator, he served with distinction on three committees: Commerce, Labor and Agriculture; Education; and Government Operations; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carter's faith was not a secret in the State legislature, as he was chaplain of the Republican Caucus. His diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in the mid-1980s was no secret, either; he gradually went from using a cane, to a scooter, until fully reliant on a wheelchair by the end of his service in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, his hometown reputation was stellar and aptly derived from his continual involvement in matters of health, education, and children's causes in the Jackson area. He was instrumental in the founding of Episcopal Day School and served on countless boards and committees, including Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army, the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and West Tennessee United Way; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carter helped found and served as the third board chairman of West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; he accomplished a myriad of good works while working with the foundation, and he leaves a lasting legacy that awes, enthuses, and inspires those who will carry on to emulate his compassion and commitment in serving others; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity, he honored a commitment he made at his father's passing to preach at his father's church, and at his grandfather's church, in Bristol, which he did monthly, without fail, for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, in the sermons he preached and the leadership and service he exerted from the statehouse and throughout his expansive West Tennessee community, and in the untold simple acts of kindness he showed strangers in need at any time in any place, Bobby Carter always acknowledged and honored God, and the entirety of his life was regarded as a genuine sermon; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Carter is survived by his children, daughter Genny Lee Carter and son and wife Russ and Krista Carter; their mother and his former wife, Pauline Taber Carter; two grandchildren, Lauren and Chris; and a great-granddaughter, Kinsley; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his loving sisters and their spouses, Betty Sue and Bob Schaughency, Mary Lou and Don Smith, Estelle and Frank Johnson, and Sara Hue Odum, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and a large extended family; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carter 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Senator Robert E. "Bobby" Carter, reflecting fondly on his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with humility and total commitment to his Heavenly Father.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and extend our sincere condolences to Senator Carter's family.

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