

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 154

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of W. L. "Big Rev"
McCadney of Lauderdale County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of W. L. "Big Rev" McCadney; and

WHEREAS, Rev. McCadney was a consummate public servant and wholly devoted man of God who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was born on January 29, 1930, to Will and Lucy McCadney in the Lockett Long Hold Bluff Community in Lauderdale County; he was raised by his paternal grandmother, Della Randolph McCadney, from whom he garnered most of his spiritual knowledge and learned to love and fear the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Rev. McCadney was a shining example of Christianity throughout his life of service, as he passionately preached God's word for fifty years, first at St. Mark Gates Missionary Baptist Church and then at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, before being led by the Spirit to Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as senior pastor for forty-two years; and

WHEREAS, a gentle man whose presence was readily discernible by his six-foot-four-inch stature and his beautifully thunderous bass voice, Big Rev, as he was so lovingly and aptly known, both spoke and sang God's Word; and

WHEREAS, before answering his higher calling to the pulpit, which came in March 1965, W. L. McCadney sang professionally and was the bass singer for The Original Southern Aires; he was blessed to sing with such gospel greats as Pop Staples, The Spirit of Memphis, and The Five Blind Boys; and

WHEREAS, Rev. McCadney was a veteran of the United States Army and served in the Korean War; he was awarded the Bronze Star for his military service in the infantry; and

WHEREAS, W. L. McCadney was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Rev. McCadney enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Ida Mae Pitts McCadney, and was the proud birth and adoptive father of Howard, Willie, Ray, Albert, Bobby, Phyllis, Dotty, Lisa, Karen, Danny, Claudia Starks, and Ena Qualls; and

WHEREAS, Rev. and Mrs. McCadney also played a large role in the upbringing of many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the sum total of their progeny now numbers greater than seventy; and

WHEREAS, Rev. McCadney leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all 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 NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we mourn the passing of Rev. W. L. McCadney and reflect fondly upon his impeccable character and unswerving commitment to living the examined life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rev. McCadney.

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