

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 84

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul Malvine Starnes.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Malvine Starnes of Chattanooga, who ably served as a member of the House of Representatives for the 88th–96th General Assemblies (1973–1991); and

WHEREAS, Paul Malvine Starnes 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 1953 graduate of Central High School in Hamilton County, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College in 1957, where he served as class president during his senior year, and was listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*; he went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1961 from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in the field of public education, Mr. Starnes served the Hamilton County Department of Education as the assistant to the superintendent and as the board information officer; prior to this, he served the department in numerous capacities, including as coordinator of special projects, community relations officer, and director of student services and educational development; and

WHEREAS, he set upon his career in education with ambition and commitment, holding a variety of positions, including dean of students at Hiwassee College, assistant principal at East Ridge Junior High School, and teacher at McMinn County High School and East Ridge High School; and

WHEREAS, born to James Albert and Helen Hudgens Starnes on December 31, 1934, Paul Starnes cultivated an understanding for hard work at an early age and continued that determination in all his endeavors; he organized a stove-ash removal service for his neighbors at the age of ten, and cared for his rabbits by pulling a wagon to the grocery store to salvage aged vegetables during his preteen years; and

WHEREAS, after winning election to the House of Representatives in 1972, Paul Starnes served Tennessee's 27th District in the 88th General Assembly and the State's 31st District in the 89th–96th General Assemblies; he was the Democratic Whip from 1973 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, his election began a legacy that involved a fervent passion for education, health, and social services; he served as a member of the Education and Calendar and Rules committees, and held the vice chairmanship and chairmanship of the General Welfare Committee in the 90th and 91st–96th General Assemblies, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his regular committee memberships, he was a member of the Education Oversight Committee, and the joint committees to study Medicaid, primary health care, vocational education, drug and alcohol abuse insurance, medical malpractice, and indigent care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes held positions of leadership with national legislative organizations, which brought honor to Tennessee; he was a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Health Care Cost Containment and Human Resources committees, serving as vice chair of the latter between 1982 and 1983, and as chair between 1984 and 1985; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes continued his public service as a member of numerous civic organizations, including the Kiwanis Club of East Ridge and the Kiwanis Club of Madisonville, which he served as president; he served the Kentucky-Tennessee District as chair of the Vocational Guidance Committee, coordinator of youth services, chair of the builders clubs, and lieutenant governor of two divisions; and

WHEREAS, he also served on more than fifty boards and commissions for local, state, and national organizations and associations; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in his profession, Mr. Starnes's work was published in a number of journals, and he was recognized for his accomplishments in sixteen biographical publications; he was a member of the Phi Delta Kappa fraternity; the Hamilton County, East Tennessee, and National Education Associations; and the Tennessee and American Association of School Supervisors and Administrators, among numerous others; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to this State's education, health care, and social services were honored with over 100 awards and accolades, including ten Legislator of the Year awards, the East Ridge Outstanding Citizen award, the Tennessee's Most Outstanding Young Teacher award, the National Volunteer of the Year award, and the State Intellectual Freedom Award, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes was a member of McFarland United Methodist Church (UMC) since 1944, which he served faithfully in numerous capacities, including as a conference delegate to two general, three jurisdictional, and twenty-seven consecutive Holston Annual conferences; he also served on a number of UMC boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes shared the loving companionship of his wife of fifty years, Mary Grace Feezell Starnes; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes 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 honor the memory of Paul Malvine Starnes, 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 deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Starnes.

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