

SENATE RESOLUTION 34

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jane Hollingsworth
“Holly” Watts of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jane Hollingsworth “Holly” Watts; and

WHEREAS, Holly Watts was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Knoxville, Mrs. Watts was a pioneer cytotechnologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and an active, highly respected member of her community; and

WHEREAS, born at Fort Sanders Hospital, Mrs. Watts attended Brownlow Elementary School and Christenberry Junior High School prior to graduating from Old Knoxville High School, where she was an honor student and lettered in swimming and volleyball; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mrs. Watts graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts; in addition to her studies, she was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, president of the Women’s Student Government Association, and was named to *Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges*; and

WHEREAS, Holly Watts earned certification in medical technology from Old Knoxville General Hospital, certification in histology from Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, and certification in cytology from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, she was named head of the Cytology Department at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, and became the first cytotechnologist in the East Tennessee area; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 1959, she married Dr. Glenn Ferrell Watts at First Presbyterian Church, where they became an integral part of the First Church family, as did their children after them; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watts was co-director of Jesus' Friends Sunday School Class for more than forty years; was a church elder, serving as chairman of the Undershepherds and as a Stephen Minister; and served as president of the group Women of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watts contributed her time and talents to numerous professional and civic organizations, including serving as president of the Knoxville Academy of Medicine Auxiliary and active member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Alumnae. She served on many boards, including the Arthritis Foundation, Bachman Home, University of Tennessee Alumni Association, University of Tennessee Women's Council, Knoxville Quarterback Club, Knoxville Teen Board, and Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities; and

WHEREAS, an avid gardener, Mrs. Watts was a member of the Cherokee Garden Club, participated in the Dogwood Arts Open Gardens, represented the Knox County Council of Garden Clubs, and oversaw the Lakeshore Chapel flowers; and

WHEREAS, she demonstrated great enthusiasm for the health and well-being of others by developing Kinderdance for children and Exerdance for adults at the West Side YMCA; in addition, she taught Exerdance for patients at Lakeshore Mental Health Hospital and "Joint Efforts" for The Arthritis Foundation, and she helped establish a support group for arthritis patients at St. Mary's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate public servant, Holly Watts completed pastoral care training at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and served as a volunteer chaplain in the Radiation Oncology Department until 2008; her many passions included visiting shut-ins and leading Bible studies for senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to her tender heart and desire to spread joy to others, Holly Watts was the recipient of Sertoma's Service to Mankind Award, the Daughters of the American Revolution National Service Award, and the Arthritis Foundation's Lifetime Service Award; she was named State Volunteer of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and First Lady of Knoxville by Beta Sigma Phi; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Holly Watts was most grateful for the love, companionship, and support of her beloved husband, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Christine Wood Hollingsworth and John Burnette "Bonnie" Hollingsworth; and

WHEREAS, her memory will be forever cherished by her four children, Rebekah Watts Ragsdale and husband Dennis; Hannah Watts Tiblier and husband Chris; Glenn "Bud" Watts Jr. and wife Laura; and Rachel Watts Trentham and husband Brent; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed by her nine grandchildren, AnDe Ragsdale Summitt and husband Tyler; Jack Ragsdale; Hollin, Selah, and Samuel Tiblier; Hunter and Hayden Watts; and Emmie and Belle Trentham. She is also survived by her brother, John "Jay" Burnette Hollingsworth Jr., and many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watts leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her 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, that as we mourn her passing, we reflect fondly on the bountiful life of Jane Hollingsworth "Holly" Watts, recognizing her stalwart character and determination to live the examined life without pause or hesitation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Holly Watts.

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