

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator T. Tommy Cutrer of Cottontown.

WHEREAS, on October 11, 1998, Senator T. Tommy Cutrer of Cottontown departed from this life for a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, born June 29, 1924 in Kentwood, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, Thomas Clinton Cutrer was the son of Thomas Joseph and Zellie Edna (Strickland) Cutrer; and

WHEREAS, from his experiences as the son of a logger, "T. Tommy" (as he was affectionately known by all) knew the meaning of hard work, and always championed the causes of the working man and woman, and fought for the greater good; and

WHEREAS, an effective politician and proficient public servant who remained true to his roots, T. Tommy Cutrer served from 1979-83 as a member of the 91st and 92nd General Assemblies, representing the good people of Senate District 15; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as state senator, he served with distinction as Chairman of the Transportation Committee during the 92nd General Assembly and served during the 91st and 92nd General Assemblies as a member of the Commerce and Government Operations committees; and

WHEREAS, during his memorable service in the Senate, Senator Cutrer successfully sponsored legislation to remove the state taxes on prostheses, thus evidencing his compassion for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cutrer let his radiant disposition shine through in other avenues as well as in the political arena; and

WHEREAS, he was renowned for his excellent work in the country music and entertainment fields as a radio and television personality, but he was perhaps best known as an announcer for the *Grand Ole Opry*; and

WHEREAS, his numerous talents have been acclaimed nationwide as he was named Disc Jockey of the Year in 1956, 1957, and 1958, by *Billboard* magazine; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, T. Tommy was named the "Nation's Top DJ"; and, in 1965, he appeared in the movie *Music City USA*; and

WHEREAS, most recently, T. Tommy Cutrer was inducted into the Disc Jockey Hall of Fame in 1980; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, T. Tommy Cutrer always kept abreast of the issues that affected his community and the State of Tennessee; his political interests eventually led him to run for Congress in 1976; and

WHEREAS, One of the other candidates was Albert Gore, Jr., who emerged as the victor in the Congressional race. With Mr. Gore's support, T. Tommy later ran for the State Senate as a Democrat and was elected, serving from 1978 until 1982; and

WHEREAS, after his memorable tenure in the political arena, Senator Cutrer worked with purpose and intelligence as a field representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cutrer was a valuable member of numerous organizations and civic clubs, including the Country Music Association, American Society of Composers, Artists, and Performers, American Country Entertainers, Screen Actors Guild; American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; Member of Jaycees, Kiwanis Club; Rotary Club; Free and Accepted Masons, and Order of the Mystic Shrine; and

WHEREAS, the sterling legacy Senator Cutrer leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by his friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, T. Tommy Cutrer was an active and devout member of the Baptist church; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his wife, Vicky Martin and his children Richard, Gary, Tyrone, Zelicia, and Zenette, as well as the members of the General Assembly, both past and present, and his many friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, even as we mourn the irreplaceable loss of T. Tommy Cutrer, we must give thanks that Tennessee has benefited so greatly from his experience, his probity and expertise, his generosity and compassion, and his unwavering commitment to this state and each of his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to express our gratitude for the bountiful life of Senator T. Tommy Cutrer. As we honor his memory, we also remember with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and extend our condolences to Mr. Cutrer's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Cutrer family with this final clause omitted from such copy.