



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 109

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Maria de la Luz Compere of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Maria de la Luz Compere of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Compere 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 native of Monterey, Mexico, Maria de la Luz Compere earned a prestigious scholarship in the late 1930s to attend Louisiana State University, where she studied biochemistry and had the fortune of meeting the love of her life and late husband, Edgar L. Compere; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as a biochemist before moving with her family to Oak Ridge, where her husband worked as a nuclear scientist with Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, upon relocating to Knoxville, Mr. and Mrs. Compere co-founded the Knoxville Green Association, resulting in the Pellissippi Beautification Committee, which launched an impressive campaign to plant nearly two million daffodil bulbs along Pellissippi Parkway; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this beautification project, Mrs. Compere established the Healing Garden at the Cancer Research Institute at the University of Tennessee Medical Center; an inmate-sustained orchard, greenhouse, and garden at Knox County's women's detention center; and the handicapped-accessible Serendipity Trail at Ijams Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, she was also responsible for an outdoor classroom for the Boys and Girls Club of America; outdoor recreation facilities for the blind and disabled in conjunction with the Council of Garden Clubs and the Knoxville Garden Club; and the donation of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of bulbs, plants, and trees to local schools, churches, and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her invaluable contributions, she was the proud recipient of many honors and awards, including induction into the Knoxville Beautification Board's Hall of Fame, the Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award, Covenant Health's Platinum Award, election as First Lady of Knoxville by the Beta Sigma Phi sorority in 2007, and membership in the venerable Ossoli Circle; and

WHEREAS, a strong and dedicated matriarch, Mrs. Compere was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar L. Compere, and her daughter, Teresa Henry; and

WHEREAS, her memory will forever be cherished by her daughters, Alicia and Suzy Compere; her five granddaughters, Tita and Alicia Compere and Alyx, Amanda, and Rebecca Henry; and her son-in-law, John Henry; and

WHEREAS, Maria de la Luz Compere 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 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Maria de la Luz Compere, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Compere.

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

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ADOPTED: February 21, 2013

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR