



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 381

By Senators Yager, Beavers, Bell, Bowling, Burks, Campfield, Crowe, Dickerson, Finney, Ford, Gardenhire, Green, Gresham, Haile, Harper, Henry, Hensley, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Massey, McNally, Niceley, Norris, Overbey, Southerland, Stevens, Summerville, Tate, Tracy, Watson, Mr. Speaker Ramsey

and

Representative Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Gene Elsea for his lifetime of service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, our former colleague, Senator Foster Eugene "Gene" Elsea, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Gene Elsea served with courage, conviction, and compassion as a member of the Senate during the 97th through 102nd General Assemblies and as a member of the House of Representatives during the 93rd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during his three terms and twelve years in the Senate and one term in the House, he was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gene Elsea was a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions as a member of various Senate and joint committees; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elsea adroitly represented his party as the Minority Caucus Chairman during the 99th through 101st General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, among his many legislative accomplishments, Senator Elsea is most proud of securing state funding to extend water utilities to most of Rhea County, to build two bridges across the Tennessee River, and to widen U.S. Highway 27 between I-24 in Chattanooga and I-40 in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elsea is also very proud of securing state funding for the construction of a new health department building through a cooperative agreement between Rhea County and the City of Dayton; in recognition of his significant contributions to the project, the county named the new health department building in his honor; and

WHEREAS, for his unparalleled devotion to public service and his constituents, Gene Elsea received numerous awards and honors; he was recognized as the 2001 State Senator of the Year by the Upper Cumberland Development District for his tireless advocacy in support of the Upper Cumberland region; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Gene Elsea has played an important role in many community, civic, and charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Claudette Henley Elsea; their three children and their spouses, Kim and Joe Hawley, Terry Elsea, and Chris and Jimmy Barnes; and their grandchildren, Jameson, Chelsea, Alexander, Chandler, and Chesney; and

WHEREAS, Gene Elsea is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; 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 hereby commend Gene Elsea for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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: April 19, 2013



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 13th day of May 2013



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR