



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 453

By Representatives Capley, Doggett

and

Senators Hensley, Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Don Laws of Lawrenceburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Don Laws, an individual who served his community for more than three decades as a law enforcement officer; and

WHEREAS, a public servant who worked assiduously to uphold the laws of this nation and maintain the standard of living in this great State of Tennessee, Don Laws retired as a captain with the Lawrenceburg Police Department after thirty-five years of service; at the time of his death, he was serving as chief of the Lynnville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, from a young age, Mr. Laws was always enamored with anything related to law enforcement. He joined the Law Enforcement Explorers at the age of sixteen, and from there, he continued into communications and was hired by the Lawrenceburg Police Department as a dispatcher; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving his community, he worked his way up through the ranks, eventually becoming captain over the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). While serving in the CID, he oversaw many burglary, theft, robbery, kidnapping, drug, domestic violence, and child abuse/child sexual abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, as an investigator, Don Laws specialized in child abuse cases, and his dedication to the well-being of the children of his community led to him being awarded the United States Attorney General's Award in Excellence in Law Enforcement on March 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, for over thirty years, Don Laws served with acumen and alacrity as a police dispatcher, police supervisor, police instructor, and police investigator, and he attended a number of specialized training schools to improve his skillset to better serve in the aforementioned positions, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work and dedication to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, he was also the founder and CEO of Prestige Protection, LLC, a private security company operating out of Lawrenceburg; and

WHEREAS, Don Laws was an active and devout member of New Prospect Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Don Laws was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Don Laws is survived by his wife of twenty-nine years, Renee Edwards Laws; his children, Misty Dawn (BJ) Spires, Kayla Renee (Corey) Batchelder, and Wesley Charles Laws (Talishia Ketcherside); his brother, James E. (Katie) Laws; his three grandchildren, Ezra Carter Batchelder, Isabella Spires, and Daniel Spires; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Eugene "Buddy" and Carolyn Patricia "Pat" Wilburn Laws; and two brothers, Ronnie Warren Matthews and Charles E. Laws; and

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WHEREAS, Don Laws 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Don Laws, 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 condolences to the family of Mr. Laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

