



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 476

By Senators Henry, Herron, Harper, Haynes, Kyle

and

Representatives Gilmore, Gotto; Madam Speaker Harwell; Representatives Jones, Moore, Odom, Pruitt, Sontany, Stewart, Mike Turner, McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Leon Ruben of Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge Leon Ruben; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben was an exemplary public servant and consummate jurist who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a 1956 graduate of Vanderbilt University, Leon Ruben earned his legal degree at the Nashville School of Law in 1962 and entered into private practice before working from 1964 to 1970 as an assistant public defender for Metro Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Mr. Ruben rendered sterling service to his fellow citizens of Davidson County as a member of the Metro Council from 1975 to 1981, as he represented District 35, the Bellevue area; and

WHEREAS, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the late Dennis W. Summers, Leon Ruben was appointed in 1981 as General Sessions Judge, Division VIII, by the Metro Council and took office on January 26, 1981; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Ruben won the respect and admiration of both his judicial peers and colleagues as well as the attorneys and citizens appearing before his court for his integrity, his genuine decency, and the exemplary quality of his decisions; annually, he worked Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, holding night court so his Christian co-workers could spend time with their families; and

WHEREAS, Leon Ruben served as presiding judge for the General Sessions Courts from 1984 to 1988, 1990 to 1991, 1996 to 1997, and 2000 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben served with probity for more than sixteen years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference and, for many years, he honorably served on the American Judges Association Board of Governors representing District Eight, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruben was also elected to the American Judges Association Court of Appeals for a five-year term and served as president of the Tennessee General Sessions Conference from 1993 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leon Ruben was a member of the American Judges Association, the Lawyer's Association for Women, the Nashville Bar Association, and the Tennessee Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, involved in his community throughout his lifetime, Judge Ruben rendered sterling service as the president of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, the president of the Murfreesboro Road Optimist Club, the president of the Bellevue Exchange Club, the president of the West End Synagogue, and the vice president and member of the Executive Board of the Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Judge Ruben was specially recognized by this body in 2006 for his twenty-five years of distinguished service on the bench, was named the Bellevue Citizen of the Year in 1981, and received the Service to Mankind Award from the Bellevue Sertoma Club in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben was a devout member of the West End Synagogue, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities, and he was also active at the Gordon Jewish Community Center and at The Temple; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his first wife, Myra Lou Ruben, his parents, Herman and Rose Ruben, and his sister, Jeanette Ruben, Judge Leon Ruben is survived by his loving wife, Sandi G. Ruben; his daughters, Susan Evans, Renee Geltzer, and Melinda Bimstein; his son, Herman Ruben; and his stepsons, Samuel Gordon, Michael Gordon, and Robin J. Gordon; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ruben 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 this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional jurist, public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge Leon Ruben, 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 Judge Ruben.

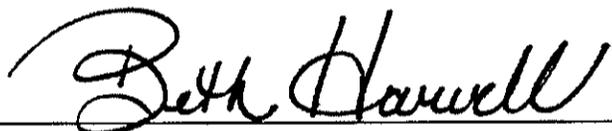
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: January 12, 2012



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17th day of January 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR