

RESOLUTION 2014-08
A RESOLUTION HONORING TENNESSEE SENATOR DOUGLAS HENRY

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Belle Meade Commission, acting on behalf of all of its grateful citizens, should pause to specially recognize those Tennesseans who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in public service to their city, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, it is with unbridled pride and honor that we recognize and commend the accomplishments and contributions of citizen Douglas Henry as an outstanding state legislator and senator representing the City of Belle Meade in the Tennessee House from 1955-56 and as a Tennessee Senator since 1970; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry is the longest-serving legislator in Tennessee history, which is itself a permanent testament to his contributions as well as the gratitude of the citizenry whom he has served so faithfully; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Henry was born in Nashville, married to the love of his life, Lollie, and has children and grandchildren, some of whom are Belle Meade citizens; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry earned his BA and JD from Vanderbilt University, and is a distinguished member of the Nashville Bar; and

WHEREAS, in his long and distinguished career of public service, Senator Douglas Henry set the standard for public servants of the state and this commission, serving as the Chair of Finance Committee and oversaw the state budgetary process, insured that Tennessee retained its Triple A bond rating and many other significant fiscal matters of import to our state's financial viability, strong economy and attractiveness to investors and investments; he also served people with passion and compassion. He was a champion for and friend to children - especially those from low income families - and those in our foster care program; he championed programs and services for the mentally ill and was a voice for the voiceless in government and in our community and throughout our State; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure, Senator Henry shepherded initiatives that will forever benefit our state and its citizens. He helped establish the State Museum (now named for him), Bicentennial Mall and Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Equally as notable, he was instrumental in establishing a rainy day fund for the state and passing laws protecting children and senior citizens; he was a voice in the establishment of I-440, conservation areas, mental health, education, the performing and fine arts throughout the state and other projects and programs that enhanced the lives of Tennesseans throughout the state and in the City of Belle Meade; and

WHEREAS, a past Chairman of the State Capitol Commission, and a member of the Tennessee Historical Society, Douglas Henry Museum Commission, and Board of the Tennessee State Museum Foundation, Senator Douglas Henry has demonstrated his commitment to preserving historical landmarks in Tennessee and to conserving locations of cultural significance in Tennessee and in the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Henry is an active and devout member of the Downtown Presbyterian Church which he has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry possesses a unique ability to develop a constructive consensus and his remarkable success as one of Tennessee's finest public servants is directly attributable to his high standards of civility, intellect, chivalry and good will to others; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry faithfully and steadfastly performed his many public duties, maintaining until this last month a perfect attendance in the legislature , serving the citizens of this city and this state; Senator Douglas Henry is a highly respected elected official and man of the utmost integrity, who has dedicated his career to the betterment of the lives of Belle Meade citizens, Nashvillians and Tennesseans alike, and whose unparalleled knowledge of the law and lawmaking process has contributed to the personal and professional growth of countless citizens and members and staff of this body; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry speaks seven languages and was a leader in the establishment of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute in 1986, the only agency of its kind in any state government in the United States; Monsieur le Senator Henry also was recognized by the French Consul General Pascal Le Deunff for his role in creating an Honorary French Consulate in Nashville; recognizing that friendship played a significant role in this decision; Further that Senator Henry’s linguistic skills and love of all things French has been recognized by the Nashville chapter of the Alliance Française, Sister Cities of Nashville and the Vanderbilt University Department of French and Italian; and

WHEREAS, since a child, Senator Henry has committed himself to the noble precepts of public service which he has embodied over his entire lifetime and is one of the finest examples of our state motto as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, words seem inadequate to the daunting task of commending Senator Henry for the standard of service that he has set for all who follow for his exemplary contributions to our city, state and nation as a citizen legislator, as the powerful Chairman of the Finance Committee, as a Tennessee General Assembly Member, as a State Senator representing The City of Belle Meade and for his many years of honorable and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELLE MEADE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that we, on behalf of the residents of the City of Belle Meade, rise in tribute and hereby honor and commend SENATOR DOUGLAS HENRY, a Southern gentleman and statesman, on his lifetime of public service, achievement and good works that have benefited our City, legislature, nation and most importantly, our people throughout the Great State of Tennessee and name him Honorary Ambassador of the City of Belle Meade.

Date of Adoption:
December 17, 2014

James V. Hunt, Mayor

Cathy Altenbern, Vice Mayor

Gray Thornburg, Commissioner

Boyd Bogle, Commissioner

Bob Weigel, Commissioner

Linda Berner, City Recorder