



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 540

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edgar L. Emens of Dayton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Edgar L. Emens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens was born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on October 24, 1938, the son of William Edgar and Anna Lee Harris Emens; and

WHEREAS, he served with valor and distinction as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army, and as a member of the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, after an already well-established career in the publishing business, Mr. Emens and his wife, Diane, moved to Dayton in 1979, at which time the couple started the *Rhea County Shopper* in a market that had been completely dominated by *The Dayton Herald* for decades; and

WHEREAS, within a few years, *The Dayton Herald* was still the paper of record, but the *Rhea County Shopper* controlled the advertising; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the Jones family of Greeneville purchased *The Dayton Herald* and, a year later, merged with the *Rhea County News* and the *Rhea County Shopper* to form *The Herald-News*; and

WHEREAS, under Edgar Emens' astute leadership as the publisher, *The Herald-News* transitioned from a weekly paper to twice weekly in 1985 and added *Rhea County Online* in 1998; and

WHEREAS, while other newspapers faced declining sales, Mr. Emens was able to slowly, but steadily, increase sales at *The Herald-News*; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens served the newspaper with acumen and alacrity for twenty-five years until his retirement in 2008, at which time he was named Publisher Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Tennessee Press Association, which he served as the District Director, and on various committees; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens graciously dedicated his time and energies to serving three terms as President of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Rhea Economic Tourism Council board, and as a member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Dayton; and

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

WHEREAS, Edgar Emens was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Charles Harris Emens and William Henry Emens; and

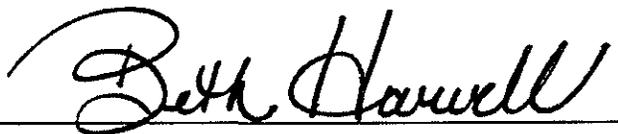
WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of thirty-seven years, Diane Holder Emens; his children, Gregory Lee Emens (Cindy Osborne), Jonathan Matthew Dixon, and Stephanie Diane (John David) Bradford; and his grandchildren, Savannah Lee Emens, Jessi Corinne Emens, and James Hunter Bradford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emens will be remembered fondly by Judson Emens, Charles Emens, James Rous, Kyle Mitchell, George Thacker, Chip Pendergrass, Bill Hollin, Raymond Walker, Bob

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ADOPTED: February 2, 2012

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR