



State of Tennessee

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

By Summerville

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joshua Ragsdale of Dickson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Joshua Ragsdale of Dickson at the age of thirty-two; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Ragsdale was a promising songwriter who utilized his battle with leukemia to inspire hundreds of people to be tested and register as potential bone marrow donors; and

WHEREAS, as his career began to blossom, Mr. Ragsdale underwent debilitating treatment for leukemia, yet he remained a very positive and upbeat person until the very end; and

WHEREAS, as he battled cancer, he continued to write songs, remained deeply anchored by his Christian faith, and kept a legion of friends and supporters entertained with his often humorous progress reports on social networking sites; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his irreverent sense of humor, Joshua Ragsdale possessed a genuine love and compassion for people, and he remained deeply concerned about others even during this great personal adversity; and

WHEREAS, raised in Mississippi as a preacher's son, Joshua Ragsdale grew up playing drums in a Pentecostal church and later learned to play guitar; and

WHEREAS, a staff songwriter at Sony/ATV, Joshua Ragsdale had experienced recent success in the country music industry; his "Ain't Much Left of Loving You" was Randy Montana's debut single, and the legendary Bill Anderson had released "Papaw's Sunday Boots," a song Joshua co-wrote with Mr. Anderson; and

WHEREAS, he and his sister, Shi-Anne Ragsdale, had previously been under contract with Lyric Street Records; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ragsdale accomplished a great deal during his all too brief life; truly a Renaissance man, he was an avid outdoorsman and had served as a spiritual advisor to death row inmates; in addition to being a gifted singer-songwriter, he was a huge fan of other artists' music, including Lyle Lovett, Fred Eaglesmith, Thad Cockrell, and his mentor, Nashville Songwriters Association International Hall of Fame songwriter, Mark D. Sanders; and

WHEREAS, his own industry biography perhaps best details the depth and breadth of his interests and his humanity: "I've played polo with the Atlanta Polo Club, trained with a SWAT team, caddied for Davis Love III, sang on the Grand Ole Opry, hugged Andy Griffith, worn a bite suit for police K-9 training, was baptized in the Mississippi River, kissed Wynonna Judd and helped Little Jimmy Dickens take down his Christmas lights"; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Ragsdale is survived by his fiancée, Tammy Kidd; his parents, John D. "Papa John" Ragsdale and Elsie "Boots" Ragsdale; his brother, John D. Ragsdale, Jr.; his sister, Shi-Anne Ragsdale Eakin; and a legion of friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Ragsdale 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 exceptionally gifted artist and exemplary human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Joshua Ragsdale, reflecting fondly upon his beautiful music, his compassion for others, and his indomitable spirit in the face of adversity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to Joshua's family and many friends.

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

ADOPTED: May 19, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE