

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 146

By Black

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Walter Sill for his dedication and commitment to serving the good people of Westmoreland by promoting the community's heritage and uniqueness.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Walter Sill is one such individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a business professional, Mr. Sill has also distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his love of his community has long fueled his vision of salvaging and memorializing the great heritage of Americans, especially that of country life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sill has helped to create a livable and welcoming Westmoreland by personally acquiring and reclaiming several buildings on Main Street; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, he has helped to generate interest in yesterday's, today's, and tomorrow's Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, raised by his grandmother in Siloam, Arkansas, Walter Sill grew up in a culture where tradition and background were a part of one's sense of self; and

WHEREAS, as an adult, Mr. Sill has never forgotten his old-time country roots, and has made it his life's purpose to share with others our common history and culture; and

WHEREAS, during the 1970s, he and his wife of 38 years, Jan, owned and operated Kaintuck Territory, an amusement park depicting the life of a Kentucky town of the 1880s; Mr.

Sill loved to collect and arrange the antique pieces that brought to life this special time from the past; and

WHEREAS, he later operated a successful antiques business in Florida before moving to Nashville to pursue work in promoting country music concerts and artists; in accord with his appreciation for the days of yore, Mr. Sill and his wife moved to Hendersonville in 1986 and moved into an old log home that they subsequently expanded; and

WHEREAS, while seeking out a location for a country store, Walter Sill discovered the Town of Westmoreland and he quickly embraced the history and warmth that lay in this special place; and

WHEREAS, located in the heart of Tennessee, just northeast of Nashville, Westmoreland plays host to Mr. Sill's Old Country Store, which exhibits beautiful antiques, lovely dolls in historic fashions, candy and sweets in old fashioned bins, and even houses an ice cream parlor for the rest and enjoyment of shoppers; and

WHEREAS, Memory Lane, also operated by Mr. Sill, pays charming tribute to the cultural, historical, environmental and economic influences of the area; and

WHEREAS, just down the street from the Old Country Store, Memory Lane sells gifts and antiques and features a wonderful town museum complete with wax figures from Madam Tussauds; the museum also contains many one-of-a-kind pictures and artifacts that acquaint visitors with the colorful history of Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2004, Mr. Sill founded "Westmoreland Days," which will be held annually on the first Saturday and Sunday in May; the festive celebration includes musical performances, antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts, food, games, contests and other family-oriented activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sill's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sill is an extremely generous person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Sill is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Jan, and their family; and

WHEREAS, as a devout and faithful Christian, Mr. Sill attends Bethel World Outreach Center with his wife and reads the Bible every day, his favorite book being Proverbs; and

WHEREAS, for his many contributions to the community, Mr. Sill was named "Citizen of the Year for the Town of Westmoreland" for 2005 by the *News Examiner*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sill is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service and dedication to community that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Walter Sill, a man of uncommon integrity and relentless vision, for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Westmoreland and Tennessee, congratulate him upon his recognition as the 2005 Westmoreland Citizen of the Year, and salute his unswerving commitment to preserving and commemorating our common heritage.

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