

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 160

In Memory
of
John Cooper

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of John Cooper of Memphis, Tennessee, who recently died at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, The husband of Tennessee State Representative Barbara Cooper, John Cooper was born in Mason, Tennessee, and was raised in North Memphis; he played football for LeMoyné-Owen College, and he served in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, He was one of 12 African American firefighters who joined the Memphis Fire Department in 1955, and he helped organize the Pioneer Black Fire Fighters Association; and

WHEREAS, Captain Cooper took part in a lawsuit in the 1970s that enabled African American firefighters to be promoted; his experiences were an inspiration to young African American firefighters; and

WHEREAS, He retired as a captain after 32 years with the Memphis Fire Department; he supported his wife in her career, and after she was elected to the Tennessee legislature in 1996, he traveled to the capitol with her every week; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity, strength, and generosity, John Cooper gave unselfishly of his time to others, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of John Cooper: his wife, Representative Barbara Cooper; his daughters, Joan Cooper Burnett and Tanya Cooper; his son, Carl Cooper; and his three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John Cooper.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2006, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate