



RESOLUTION OF HONOR  
Charles Vineyard Runyon, Sr.

Much has been said about the life and deeds of Charles Vineyard Runyon Sr. Opinions have been expressed by those who knew him well - some who knew him not so well and scores who loved him dearly. In all these expressions one has not heard one word of criticism or disrespect. Would it appear that this man traveled quietly, gently and successfully down the road of life apparently making no enemies - probably not, yet if there were those who disagreed with his policies, respect for his integrity and "his belief that he was right" outweighed the differences they may have had with him.

"Mr. Charlie", as he was commonly known, could well be called the "Father of City Government" in Clarksville, Tennessee, for his 43 years as legal guardian of city affairs would take one back to "horse and buggy" days when Clarksville was a country town instead of the progressive municipality we now are privileged to reside in. One of Mr. Charlie's favorite pastimes was telling about how "things used to be" and expressing pride in the present. Many of the laws enacted to expedite this growth came from the fruitful and probing mind of Charles V. Runyon. While others hurried to "get more projects through", Mr. Charlie carefully weighed the effect each project would have on the future of this community. Those who perhaps sometimes thought he moved slowly, have seen the benefits of his protective custody of the town he loved -- in matters of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Department of Electricity, general codes and ordinances, Urban Renewal and blight, the army base of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and many others.

"Mr. Charlie" was never too busy to answer the smallest question pertinent to city affairs; never diffident of expression in matters that affected the small as well as the large.

One might well philosophize on the middle name of Mr. Runyon - "Vineyard" as a parallel of his earthly existence - the fruitful evidence of a life given for others and worthy of many pleasant memories left for posterity. Truly his life was a vine filled with productive fruit that flourished and sweetened those around him. No man is perfect - yet one can not imagine lamentation of the creation of a man so gentle in spirit, slow to anger, devoted to family and friends, inspirational to all who knew him, and in his every activity truly "a servant of God."

Composition: Presented on behalf of the City of Clarksville

*Walter C. ...*  
City Clerk

By *Chas. W. ...*  
Mayor