

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 280

By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor Ollie Keller on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those who in their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Ollie Keller is one such outstanding person who has served with alacrity and acuity for many years with the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he was born and raised in Blount County and graduated from Maryville High School in 1947, where he excelled as an all-sports athlete; and

WHEREAS, he ably served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller has always been an avid sportsman and had a distinguished football career as a member of General R.R. Neyland's National Championship Team of 1950-51 at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he also enjoyed a notable career in football and basketball during 1952-53 at then Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller's admirable sports career earned him an induction into the Memphis State University Hall of Fame and most recently into the initial class of the Blount County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in his early years of state service, Mr. Keller was a celebrated high school teacher, administrator, coach and athletic director and enjoyed a distinguished collegiate coaching career at Memphis State University, Northeast Louisiana University, Iowa State University, and Colorado State University; and

WHEREAS, he served as Principal of the Fairview Middle School, which received numerous honors during his tenure, including winning a 1st Place Environmental Recycling National Award from “Keep America Beautiful”, an A+ Governor’s Award and a State Board of Education Award for “exceeding 21st Century Classroom Expectations” for the 1994-95 school year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller’s service at the executive level of state government began during the Alexander administration when he served as Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Conservation; and

WHEREAS, he served during the Sundquist administration as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, his illustrious service has not gone unnoticed he received a “Resolution of Honor” in 1986 and 1995 from the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller is most appreciative of the love and companionship of his wife, Dottie, their four married children, Kevin, Katie, Jennifer and Lucy, and their many grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keller’s adroit qualities include the uncommon ability to motivate others to fully realize their potential, perhaps the most valuable of all skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our appreciation to Ollie Keller for his dedicated and honorable service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.

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