

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 728
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jon Allen Collins on the occasion of his retirement from Cumberland Bank.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Jon Allen Collins is one such estimable person who has served with probity for five years with Cumberland Bank as Vice President of Business Development and Community Relations; and

WHEREAS, during his term at the bank, he has earned the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and clients; and

WHEREAS, a native of Portland, Jon Collins graduated from Sumner County High School in 1955 and then attended Middle Tennessee State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1959; in addition to his academic studies, he also graduated from the Officers' Training Corps at Fort Bragg and from the 1st Army Flight School at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, fully cognizant of the immense value of education, Mr. Collins earned a Master of Arts in Education from Western Kentucky University in 1976 and later completed thirty hours of additional graduate coursework; and

WHEREAS, this gifted educator began his thirty-four-year teaching career in 1959 at Jackson County Central High School; after teaching there for three years, he moved to White House High School, where he stayed for fifteen years and quickly became known statewide for his excellence as a football coach; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Coach Collins transferred to Portland High School and served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher and coach there until 1985, when he became Vice Principal of Portland Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins's wisdom and guidance were just as effective in administration as they had been in the classroom and on the gridiron, and he facilitated many positive changes at Portland Middle School before taking a well-deserved retirement from education in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Coach Collins is a living legend among Tennessee's high school coaching fraternity; his accomplishments are such they have rarely been equaled; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his retirement, he ranked seventh on the all-time victories list among Tennessee football coaches; and

WHEREAS, he was chosen by his peers in 1972, 1975, 1980, and 1983 as Region Coach of the Year and in 1979 and 1980 as District Coach of the Year; in 1972, he earned the honor of *Tennessean* Mid-State Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, five times, he was Red River Conference Coach of the Year, and he served as Coach in the 1973 Tennessee East/West Football All-Star Game; and

WHEREAS, young athletes repeatedly reached unsurpassed levels of success under the tutelage of Coach Collins; his squads won the Red River Conference in 1964, 1966, 1967, 1969, and 1970, won region championships in 1972, 1973, 1975, 1980, and 1983, and claimed district titles in 1979, 1980, and 1983; and

WHEREAS, Coach Collins's famed 1972 and 1976 White House squads reached the state championship game; and

WHEREAS, the exploits of his teams were such in 1959, 1964, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1981, and 1982 that they were selected to participate in postseason bowl games; and

WHEREAS, though he retired from formal education in 1993, Jon Allen Collins has continued to share his vast wealth of knowledge; he led Historical Tours for Gray Line Tour Company from 1994 to 1996 and often speaks at local schools on topics such as genealogy, banking, government, the Civil War, and World War II; and

WHEREAS, known throughout the community for his superb leadership skills and wise judgment, Mr. Collins has served in leadership positions with the Sumner County Commission, the 911 Board of Sumner County, the Sumner County Highway Improvement Ad Hoc Committee, and the Sumner County Economic Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Portland Quarterback Club, the Sumner County Historical Society, the Highland Rim Historical Society, and the Lions Club, where he formerly served as President and Vice President, and he has served for twelve seasons as the voice of Portland Panther Football; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is an active member of the First Baptist Church, where he has served faithfully for fourteen years as the Sunday School teacher of the Men's Senior Class; and

WHEREAS, Jon Allen Collins is wholly committed to perpetuating the highest standard of family and community values, and he is most grateful for the deep love and companionship that he shares with his wife, Geraldine Chaffin; and

WHEREAS, he is the devoted father of three children, Brent, Deborah, and Kris, and the proud grandfather of five grandchildren, Erin, Gerri, Katie, Luke, and Jake; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Collins has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential, leading countless individuals to improve their lives in immeasurable ways; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize Jon Allen Collins for his outstanding service to the people of Tennessee as a teacher, coach, professional, and public servant, and join with his family, friends, and community in extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every 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.