

HOUSE RESOLUTION 379
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to commend Glenda O'Connor for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an educator and administrator.

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 the provision of quality education of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Glenda O'Connor is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; having spent fourteen of the previous sixteen years as a member of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Roundtable; she recently stepped down from her post as Vice Chancellor of Development and Alumni Affairs at UT-Memphis after sixteen years of faithful service to the school; and

WHEREAS, Ms. O'Connor is a highly respected member of the UT-Memphis community, earning the respect of her peers through her remarkable dedication to her profession; and

WHEREAS, a native of Loretto, she earned her Bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Memphis and completed professional training through the Executive

Management Institute and the Seminar for Senior Professionals conducted by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education; and

WHEREAS, renowned nationwide for her remarkable ability as an educator and administrator, she served on the Board of the Memphis Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives from 1992–1993 and on the Alumni Advisory Board to the University of Tennessee’s School of Accountancy from 1986-1992; and

WHEREAS, prior to devoting her talents to the service of the University of Tennessee-Memphis, Ms. O’Connor served with acumen and alacrity as Associate Director of Development at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, she joined UT-Memphis in 1985 as Associate Vice Chancellor of Development; she was Acting Vice Chancellor from March 1994 until her official appointment as Vice Chancellor in December of that year, when she became the first woman at the institution to be given such an appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs has grown tremendously during her tenure, which has featured one of the most successful campaigns ever undertaken at the UT Health Science Center, the 21st Century Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the 21st Century Campaign was announced in 1994 with a goal of raising \$45 million for the UT Health Science Center; by the time the campaign was completed, it had raised \$83 million; and

WHEREAS, during Ms. O’Connor’s meritorious tenure as Vice Chancellor, the number of endowment funds has risen from 152 to 283, the total endowment/trust value has risen from \$69 million to \$150 million, and over \$78 million of private gift dollars have been raised; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as an educator and administrator, Glenda O’Connor has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, during her many years of dedicated public service, Glenda O’Connor has been honored with numerous accolades; and

WHEREAS, UT-Memphis Chancellor Bill Rice praised her, saying, "Glenda O'Connor has done an outstanding job as the chief development officer of the UT Health Science Center. She has been particularly helpful to me in guiding me through both the science and the art of private fundraising. Glenda is a wonderful person. I treasure her friendship, and the University will surely miss her"; and

WHEREAS, Frank Norfleet, Honorary Chair of the 21 Century Campaign, Founder of the Chancellor's Roundtable, and former Chair of the Development Council, remarked, "She is a very efficient ambassador and representative of UT. The people who have worked with her respect and love her, and the City of Memphis should be proud of what she accomplished at UT as well as in the community. She is devoted to UT, she has always been dependable, and she always did a splendid job. She was involved in everything and because of that, she will be greatly missed"; and

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

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

WHEREAS, she is fortunate to share love and companionship with her husband, John O'Connor, for nearly 35 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. O'Connor is wholly committed to quality, professional education and the future of our great State; she exemplifies the true spirit of a Tennessean and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Glenda O'Connor for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Vice Chancellor of Development and Alumni Affairs for the University of Tennessee-Memphis

Health Science Center, thank her for her sixteen years of service to the University, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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