

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 856  
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Scott Meltzer of Williamson County upon being named Tennessee's top high school volunteer by the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Scott Meltzer, an esteemed resident of Franklin and a Senior at Centennial High School, has been recognized as Tennessee's top high school volunteer in the Prudential Spirit of Community Award's Eleventh Annual Nationwide Program, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Scott Meltzer won this recognition for establishing a teen court in his county to give non-violent juvenile offenders a chance to correct their mistakes and to give high school students a chance to learn first-hand about the American judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meltzer, who professes a "passion for understanding, learning, and interpreting the law," immediately began thinking about starting a teen court after seeing a 2003 television report about a teen court in another part of the State; and

WHEREAS, Scott Meltzer met with judges, youth court officers, and county and State officials; recruited student participants through assemblies and classroom meetings; and then organized a three-week session to train the students to be prosecutors, defense attorneys, and jurors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meltzer also served as a prosecutor when the court began to try cases diverted from juvenile court; and

WHEREAS, now in its third year of operation, the Williamson County Teen Court has grown to include 100 student participants from four high schools and tries more cases than any

other teen court in Tennessee; it has also been highly successful in reducing repeat offenses by the defendants who have come before the court; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Scott Meltzer will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion at a local ceremony, and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., for several days of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, Scott Meltzer epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and takes his place among the many noble citizens who have earned this State the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depends, in great measure, on the dedication of young people like Scott Meltzer who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Scott Meltzer on being recognized as a State Honoree in the Prudential Sprit of Community Award's Eleventh Annual Nationwide Program, recognize his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all of 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.