

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 964
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION honoring Hazel O'Leary, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and current President of Fisk University.

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize those intrepid and determined individuals who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of excellence in their endeavors and, in doing so, have served as an inspiration to all those around them; and

WHEREAS, Hazel O'Leary is one such individual; she will be the keynote speaker at the 2006 Sister-To-Sister Conference's Women of Color Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Sister-To-Sister Conference is organized and sponsored by the Nashville Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, International (NCBW), a non-profit volunteer advocacy organization dedicated to providing a forum for black women who share the common goal of developing, initiating, and implementing action plans designed to pursue social, economic, and political gains; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Chapter of NCBW, which adheres to the highest values of equality, leadership, and civic involvement, has chosen for its keynote speaker Hazel O'Leary, a person who is the living embodiment of those very characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. O'Leary, a native of Newport News, Virginia, earned her bachelor's degree from Fisk University and her law degree from Rutgers University Law School; and

WHEREAS, from 1974 until 1976, during the presidential term of Gerald Ford, Hazel O'Leary directed the Office of Consumer Affairs/Special Impact and, from 1976 to 1977, served as General Counsel for the Community Services Administration; and

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter appointed Mrs. O'Leary to serve as the Assistant Administrator for Conservation and Environment in the Federal Energy Administration, a position she held until 1978, when the Federal Energy Administration was assigned to the Department of Energy. From 1978 until 1980, she stood as the Chief of the Department of Energy's Economic Regulatory Administration; and

WHEREAS, between 1981 and 1989, Mrs. O'Leary served as the Vice President and General Counsel of O'Leary and Associates, an energy consulting firm she co-founded with her husband. In 1989, she joined the Northern States Power Company as its Executive Vice President for Public and Environmental Affairs and Vice President of Human Resources, a post she held until her promotion to the presidency of the company in 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Hazel O'Leary was appointed by President Bill Clinton as the Secretary of the Department of Energy, becoming the first African-American, the first woman, and the first energy executive to serve as Energy Secretary; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Secretary of the Department of Energy, which lasted until 1997, Hazel O'Leary influenced the debate on every major national security and economic initiative and became the first Energy Secretary to oppose nuclear testing. Despite strong criticism from the military industry, Secretary O'Leary successfully defended the technical basis for the decision to end nuclear testing within the United States; and

WHEREAS, after her departure from the Department of Energy, Hazel O'Leary rejoined O'Leary and Associates and later served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Blaylock and Associates until August 16, 2004, when she was sworn in as the fourteenth President of Fisk University; she has served in this post with the dedication, deliberation, and determination for which she is so well known; and

WHEREAS, she also donates her time and energies to several worthy organizations, and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the UAL Corporation; Scottish Re, Ltd.; AlChemix; World Wildlife Fund, Morehouse College, and the Arms Control Association. She is a former Board Member of ICF Kaiser International and the AES Company; and

WHEREAS, Hazel O'Leary exemplifies the stalwart determination, outstanding character, and unwavering commitment of purpose which are characteristics of success, and it

is only fitting that the Nashville Chapter of NCBW has invited her to give the keynote address at the Women of Color Luncheon, allowing her to share her knowledge and understanding with others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this opportunity to extend its gratitude and recognition to Hazel O'Leary; 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 honor and recognize Hazel O'Leary on the occasion of her keynote address at the Women of Color Luncheon of the 2006 Sister-for-Sister Conference, commend her on her success as a businesswoman and energy leader, and offer our fondest wishes for her every future success.

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