

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 981  
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Robert L. Key, Sr., upon his promotion to Fire Chief of the City of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived and built by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public safety and welfare, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this dedication to public safety through the fire service, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding their fellow citizens in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's fire departments are committed to protecting lives and property from the devastating effects of fire and are greatly appreciated by the concerned citizens and government officials of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is the great privilege of this General Assembly to commend and honor those brave firefighters who provide safety and security for the citizens of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Key, Sr., is one such shining example of the firefighting profession, who has diligently given exemplary service to the City of Knoxville for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Robert Key, Sr., graduated from Fulton High School in 1966 and attended Knoxville Business College in 1974-1975; he joined the Knoxville Fire Department as a Firefighter in October of 1975, and remained in that position until December of 1988, while concurrently serving for ten years in the Warrants Division of the Knox County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, he rose steadily through the ranks, holding the positions of Senior Firefighter, Master Firefighter, and Fire Officer before being named an Assistant Chief in 1998; and

WHEREAS, for the past six years as Assistant Chief, Robert Key planned, organized, and commanded firefighting operations and emergencies in a specific district, while performing administrative and scheduling duties; in addition, he served as a hazardous materials team leader for eight years and served on the department's accreditation committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Robert Key has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the grateful citizens whom he serves; he has attended numerous local, state-sponsored, and National Fire Academy training courses in order to further his professional education; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2006, Mayor Bill Haslam announced the appointment of Robert Key as Chief of the Knoxville Fire Department (KFD); the Mayor stated that his trust in Robert Key's commitment to the citizens of Knoxville and to the men and women of the Fire Department, when combined with Key's leadership abilities and his depth of experience, make Robert Key the right person for the job; and

WHEREAS, newly-appointed Chief Key is an active and important part of his community and his profession; he was appointed to the New Hire/Interview Committee and the National Accreditation Committee, has served as Chairman of the Rules and Regulations Committee, and was selected to represent KFD at the Tennessee Fire Chief's Convention and at two separate Homeland Security seminars in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Chief Key is also an accomplished businessman, having served for the last twelve years as Manager of DeRoyal Lodge Operations, a corporate site for business meetings and other functions; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, he served with courage and distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, his distinguished accomplishments notwithstanding, Chief Key is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, June, and their three adult children; and

WHEREAS, Chief Key exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Robert L. Key, Sr., upon his promotion to Fire Chief of the City of Knoxville. We honor and commend this man of immeasurable courage and commitment for thirty years of service to the people of Knox County, thank him for his bravery and dedication, and wish him safety and success in his every future endeavor.

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