

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1030
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bill Needham on the occasion of his retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Bill Needham is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as Director of Schools for the Overton County School System for many years, and he will soon be taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, the son of Raleigh and Nola Mae Needham, Bill Needham graduated from Livingston Academy in 1964, and he attended Tennessee Technological University and Martin Junior College, majoring in education and minoring in business; and

WHEREAS, beginning his career in education in 1967, Mr. Needham served as a teacher and principal at Hilham, Allons, and Hardy's Chapel schools before moving on to the Central Office of Overton County School System; and

WHEREAS, while at Hardy's Chapel, Bill Needham guided the girls' basketball team to two Forks River Basketball Tournament Championships, known as the Mid-State Invitational, one of the biggest tournaments in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Needham moved to the Central Office of the Overton County School System in 1984 and worked with career training for Rickman High School and Livingston Academy, serving as Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, taking a brief, year-and-a-half retirement in 1999, Bill Needham was asked to come back to his current position, a testament to his singular expertise and immeasurable contributions to the education system in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career with the Overton County School System, Mr. Needham has worked assiduously to improve the Overton County School System, boosting the art and music programs, increasing the number of dual credit courses, garnering three grants for pre-Kindergarten programs, adding physical education teachers and counselors, and maintaining the highest educational and academic standards; and

WHEREAS, Bill Needham is an active and important part of his community and his profession, and he volunteers his time and many talents with numerous worthy organizations and activities; and

WHEREAS, committed to the estimable principles of public service and volunteerism, Mr. Needham served as Overton County Commissioner in the early 1970's; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Mr. Needham always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill Needham exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Bill Needham has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; 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 recognize and honor Bill Needham for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, commend his commitment to providing the highest quality education for this State's youth, and extend 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.