

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 598

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor Mark L. Stansbury, Sr., of Memphis on his receipt of the Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary individual is Mark L. Stansbury, Sr., of Memphis, who was recently named the 2008 recipient of the Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, a longtime fixture in public higher education in Memphis, Mr. Stansbury is currently the Assistant to the President at the University of Memphis, having first been appointed to the post in October 1989 and accepting his fourth appointment in July 2000 from the eleventh and first woman president, Dr. Shirley C. Raines; and

WHEREAS, a native Memphian and product of the Memphis public school system, Mr. Stansbury is a graduate of Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, where he worked as a disk jockey for WJAK Radio during his college years and later served as Director of Public Relations; and

WHEREAS, a very personable gentleman, Mark Stansbury worked briefly as a news reporter for *The Commercial Appeal* and later enjoyed a lengthy career in public relations with Holiday Inns, Inc., where he was one of the first African Americans to be hired in a managerial position; and

WHEREAS, he is best known to many as the weekend announcer for radio station AM 1070 WDIA and host of the popular "Sunday Afternoon's Best Gospel" program, having been associated with the nation's first black programmed radio station for nearly fifty years; and

WHEREAS, prior to accepting his position at the University of Memphis, Mr. Stansbury served as Special Assistant to Governor Ned McWherter and Shelby County Field Director for the Governor's Memphis office; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the University of Memphis, Mr. Stansbury was selected by Chancellor Charles Smith of the Tennessee Board of Regents to serve as the Interim President of Shelby State Community College, now Southwest Tennessee, which appointment blossomed from an original six-month assignment to a period of approximately two years; and

WHEREAS, a highly active and visible member of the Memphis community, Mr. Stansbury was a member of the first class of Leadership Memphis, served on the transition team of both Memphis Mayor W. W. Herenton and former Shelby County Mayor Jim Rout, and was recently appointed to the Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and the Shelby Farms Master Plan Committee by current Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton; and

WHEREAS, a founder of Diversity Memphis, Mr. Stansbury has ably served as a board member of a multitude of civic, professional, and charitable organizations, including the E 911 Emergency Communications District; Selective Service Board No. 38; the Memphis Race Relations and Diversity Institute; the University of Memphis Foundation Board of Directors; Goals for Memphis; Leadership Memphis Alumni; NAACP Freedom Fund Gala Coordinator; Public Relations Society of America; and the Steering Committee for the United Negro College Fund; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mark Stansbury has won numerous prestigious honors, including the Award of Merit – the highest honor given to a citizen by the Mayor of Memphis for true service beyond the customary participation in civic activities; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired on campus both by colleagues and students, Mark Stansbury was awarded the first Campus United Award by the Student Government Association, named the school's first King of Kwanzaa in 2000, and played a pivotal role in the university's tribute to the Memphis State Eight, the student pioneers who integrated the university; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stansbury is a longtime member of St. Andrew African Methodist Episcopal Church, which he has served faithfully in numerous capacities, including

Superintendent of the Young Adult Department of the Church School, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Vice Chairman of the Trustee Board and as a delegate to the 43rd, 45th, and 46th sessions of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Mark Stansbury is most thankful for the loving companionship of his wife, Imogene; together they are the proud parents of four adult sons and the doting grandparents of four treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mark Stansbury for his years of outstanding service to his community and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate and applaud Mark L. Stansbury, Sr., upon his receipt of the Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award and extend to him our deepest wishes for his every continued success and happiness.

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