

SENATE RESOLUTION 191

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Robert K. Bird 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, Robert K. Bird is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for many years on the Tusculum Board of Mayor and Commissioners and who will be taking a much-deserved retirement this year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bird, who will not be seeking re-election in the June 5th municipal election, has been serving as Vice Mayor; he also served as the Mayor of Tusculum from 1989 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tusculum, Robert Bird earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from what is now East Tennessee State University, and taught school for one year at the former McDonald High School before entering the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, in the Army, he was assigned to duty in Germany at the height of the Cold War; after returning home, he began a twenty-four-year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the FBI, Mr. Bird served as the Director of the Kentucky State Law Academy, then accepted the post of Director of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement for Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Tusculum, he decided to become involved in local government, following in the footsteps of his father, John A. Bird, who was a member of the first Tusculum Board of Mayor and Commissioners when Tusculum was incorporated in 1959; and

WHEREAS, during his impressive career in public office, Mr. Bird ushered in many advancements for the City of Tusculum; among them are the completion of the Tusculum Linear Park Train and the Tusculum Bypass; and

WHEREAS, also under his tenure, the city of Tusculum started a recycling program, bought a tractor for mowing purposes, replaced a late model fire truck with a new one, bought a used EMS truck and converted it to a fire department equipment truck, and bought a new leaf vacuum to collect leaves in the fall; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bird exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community which are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Eva; his two children, Martha and Robert, Jr.; and his four grandchildren; he is also thankful for the support of all current and past Tusculum officials, all city employees, and the officials of the Greene County School System, Doak and Chuckey-Doak schools, Tusculum College, and the Greene Valley Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Robert K. Bird 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 FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Robert K. Bird our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from public service 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.