

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 892

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Karen A. Bowyer upon twenty-five years as President of Dyersburg State Community College.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes pride in honoring those esteemed individuals who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Karen A. Bowyer is one such noteworthy person who has served as President of Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) for twenty-five years with the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bowyer has an impressive history of academic service; after completing three years as Instructor and Mathematics Coordinator in Cali, Columbia, and one year as a Mathematics Instructor and Coordinator in Mexico City, she returned to the United States and began her more than three decades of community college involvement at the newly-founded Shelby State Community College in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, while at Shelby State, she held the positions of part-time Instructor of Mathematics, Assistant Professor, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Methodology, and Dean of Instruction before becoming Interim President in 1981; and

WHEREAS, she began her illustrious tenure with Dyersburg State when she was appointed Interim President in 1984; she was appointed President in 1986 after an extensive national search, making her the first woman President of a state institution of higher education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bowyer's commitment to broadening access to higher education has led her to spearhead the construction of off-campus centers in Tipton and Gibson Counties and the establishment of a Center in Obion County; and

WHEREAS, championing the abilities of all to obtain an education, Dr. Bowyer began the College's Annual Fund Campaign in the 1985-86 school year; this fund has provided more than 10.6 million dollars for scholarships and equipment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bowyer's efforts have resulted in a full-time-equivalent student enrollment increase of over eighty-three percent during her years of service at DSCC, and a scholarship has been established at DSCC in her honor; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, several buildings contributing to the progress and innovation of the DSCC campus have been constructed, including the DSCC Student Center, which houses all student services and is the College's first geothermal building; the Learning Resource Center; the Jimmy Naifeh Center; a new parking lot; and a new chemistry laboratory, which was constructed on the second floor of the Glover Education Center; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Dr. Bowyer serves as a board member of the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges; a member of the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and a member of the Northwest Tennessee P-16 Council; she has served in numerous other professional organizations through the years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bowyer holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Knox College, an M.A. in Mathematics from Rutgers University, and a Ph.D in Mathematics Education from the University of Alabama; she has contributed to a number of important educational publications; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Dr. Bowyer is a member of the Dyer County Historical Society; the Dyersburg/Dyer County Area Chamber of Commerce, for which she serves as Vice President; the United Way of West Tennessee, for which she serves as Chairman of the Board; the Collaborations and Development Committee of the Dyer County YMCA; and the Kiwanis and Giving Friends Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Karen Bowyer has expertly and admirably guided Dyersburg State Community College to a new level of excellence in her twenty-five years as President; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Karen Bowyer for her stalwart service and dedication upon twenty-five years as President of Dyersburg State Community College, thank her for her peerless public service to the citizens and students of Tennessee, and wish her much continued success in all her 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.