

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 904

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Lee University as the only college or university in Tennessee to win the 2009 Presidential Award for General Community Service in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should salute those colleges and universities that educate their students about the importance of service and of giving back to their communities and this great State; and

WHEREAS, Lee University is one such noteworthy institution that has instilled into its students the value of dedicated public service and active participation in the community and has won the 2009 Presidential Award for General Community Service in the President's Higher Education Community Service Roll; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2006, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs; and

WHEREAS, the Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the United States Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Award for General Community Service was only bestowed upon three schools in 2009 and is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, honorees are selected on consideration of the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses; and

WHEREAS, founded on the ideals of social justice, benevolence, and civic virtue, Lee University has made commitment to social service a mandatory part of its curriculum; every student must complete two service-embedded courses and eighty hours of service-learning as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS, Lee University students completed over 66,000 volunteer hours in community service this past year with more than 80% of the University's students involved in some volunteering or service project; and

WHEREAS, many students lent their time and talents to the Crossover program, collaborating with area grocers and retailers to distribute over 192,000 pounds of food and providing tutoring, job training, and agency referrals to the disadvantaged in the community; and

WHEREAS, business majors assisted hundreds of Cleveland's underprivileged citizenry with their tax returns and secured over \$480,000 in tax refunds through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program; and

WHEREAS, through the Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC) program, students partnered with local school districts and spent over 4,000 hours providing children affected with autism with a variety of activities and services, including an autism camp, educational planning, and family support services; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Lee University has been listed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, known as the Volunteer State, Tennessee is built upon a spirit of community service and volunteerism, and this General Assembly wishes to pause in its deliberations to commend Lee University, which continues to teach these foundational values; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Lee University on its collective dedication to public service and commitment to improving its community and congratulate its president, staff, faculty, and students on winning the 2009 President Award for General Community Service in the prestigious President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

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