

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 954

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sheriff Edwin Graybeal, Jr., for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

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 noteworthy person is Sheriff Edwin "Ed" Graybeal, Jr., of Washington County, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, an American patriot, Ed Graybeal served with honor and bravery in Vietnam as an Infantry Division sergeant in the U.S. Army in 1969 and 1970; he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Sharpshooter Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Graybeal has served with acumen and alacrity in the Washington County Highway Department since 1979, holding the ranks of patrolman, patrol sergeant,

lieutenant, captain, major, and chief deputy and rendering sterling service as the Commander of the Support Services Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Patrol Division, Watch, Operations Divisions, and S.W.A.T.; and

WHEREAS, noted for his dedication and integrity, Ed Graybeal was appointed sheriff by a unanimous vote of the Washington County Commission in 2003, and after demonstrating the utmost professionalism and ability during his exemplary tenure, Sheriff Graybeal was re-elected in 2004 and 2006 and ably continues to serve the good people of Washington County to this day; and

WHEREAS, an avid learner and diligent student, Sheriff Graybeal attended East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Police Staff and Command School, Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, and Police Executive Development; he received additional training at ETSU and the University of Tennessee in Upper Management Administration, Management and Supervision, Traffic Accident Investigation, and Middle Management Law Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and dedication to his profession, Sheriff Graybeal completed his extensive education by earning certifications in Radar Operations, Advanced/Master Strategic Reaction Team, Field Sobriety Testing, Field Training Officer, FBI Law Enforcement Instructor Development, Sexual Abuse Investigation, Evidence Technician, and Death Investigation; he has also received additional P.O.S.T. approved training throughout his estimable career; and

WHEREAS, a Scottish Rite 32nd degree Mason, Sheriff Graybeal is a dedicated civic leader, who has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with numerous organizations, including serving as a member of the Executive Board of Tennessee Sheriff's Association, Tennessee Sheriff's Association, National Sheriff's Association, S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), Northwestern University Alumni Association, U.S. Attorney General's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Executive Committee, U.S. Attorney General's Executive Council on Terrorism, U.S. Attorney

General's Council on Methamphetamine, Upper East Tennessee Executive Council, Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, 911 Board of Directors, Jonesborough Kiwanis Club, and Appalachian Fair Board of Directors; an executive member and former chairman of the 1st Judicial Drug Task Force; and the chairman of the Public Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Graybeal's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Sheriff Graybeal is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of forty-one years, Connie Gail Graybeal; he is also the proud and loving father and father-in-law of Connie Graybeal and Scott Johnson and Edwin III and Audrey Horton Graybeal and the doting grandfather of Daniel Johnson, Patricia Nienast, Dylan Graybeal, and Madison Graybeal; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Graybeal epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sheriff Ed Graybeal for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 Sheriff Edwin Graybeal, Jr., for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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