

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1390

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Samuel Baker for his distinguished service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Baker is one such estimable person who, throughout his exemplary thirty-five year tenure with the State of Tennessee, has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and to his State and has recently announced he will be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, born on December 1, 1943, in Lobelville, Samuel Baker was raised in Perry County where his mother was a teacher and his father farmed; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1974, Mr. Baker began his illustrious career as a state employee with the Department of General Services as an analyst working on the Tennessee Online Purchasing System; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1982, shortly after graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a Master of Science in Math, Sam Baker embarked upon his sterling tenure with the Treasury Department as the Computer Operations Manager; and

WHEREAS, his vast knowledge of treasury business, depth of technological understanding, and unparalleled work ethic – working long hours and most holidays – made him an invaluable member of the treasury department and a frequently consulted resource in the State of Tennessee's information technology community; and

WHEREAS, among his innumerable contributions to the Treasury Department are his unrivaled length of service as the head of support for the State's mainframe retirement and

treasury accounting systems and his integral role in the implementation of most major technology enhancements with the treasury department for the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker was responsible for the recent implementation of the PEP+System which handles the State's incoming and outgoing ACH financial debit and credit transactions, receipts, and returns; this system has greatly improved many of the State's banking functions; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Baker was also the lead architect of the daily operational procedures responsible for an average of 500 monthly mainframe job submits in support of treasury systems and he was also the technical leader for the specifications and testing of approximately twenty different interfaces between the State's new Edison system and dependent treasury applications; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past two years, Sam Baker has been the technical lead for a major project to upgrade the PEP+ACH system to bring the State into compliance with new banking regulations governing International ACH Transactions; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and greatly admired by his peers, Mr. Baker has been honored twice by the State of Tennessee's Information Systems Management Group as he received the ISM Outstanding Individual Award in 2004 and the Career Achievement Award in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Baker's remarkable success as a public servant 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, deeply involved in his community and his church, Sam Baker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many accolades and accomplishment, Samuel Baker enjoys the loving support of his beloved wife of forty-one years, Darlene, and is the proud father of two devoted children, Rachel and James; and

WHEREAS, looking forward to his retirement, Mr. Baker plans to travel and visit relatives, read and study with others at his church, become more involved in genealogy, and write about technical areas for Web-based content; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Samuel Baker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his supervisors, and the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Baker is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; 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 commend Samuel Baker for his many years of honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for success in his future endeavors and a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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