

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 87

By Marrero B

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Katie Ayres on being named State Honoree of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Katie Ayres, an esteemed resident of Memphis and a seventh grader at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School, has been selected as one of two State Honorees of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2008, all public and private middle level and high schools in the country, as well as all Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs, and affiliates of HandsOn Network, were eligible to select a student or member for a local Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, more than 5,000 Local Honorees were then reviewed by an independent judging panel, which selected State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, at twelve years of age, Katie Ayres was nominated by Grace St. Luke's Episcopal School and was chosen as a State Honoree in response to her incredible volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ayres has served as a volunteer with children at a school summer camp, as an assistant at her church's Vacation Bible School, and as an acolyte during church services; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ayres says she gives of her time because of her love for children; she first volunteered at the summer camp when she learned of a shortage of teachers and helpers, and she took charge of one class on her own, determined to set an example for the younger children; and

WHEREAS, through her volunteer work, she made sure that teachers did not have too many children in their classes, and she helped to create a more enjoyable environment for everyone involved; and

WHEREAS, driven by her passion for working with children, Katie Ayres says she plans to become a teacher and make volunteering a habitual part of her life, devoting her time to make the world a better place for others; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Miss Ayres will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., from May 2 through May 5, 2009, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Katie Ayres who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others, even at a young age; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate and honor Katie Ayres as a State Honoree of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit, and extending to her our best wishes for her continued success and happiness.

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