

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 454

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Penelope Uselton upon receiving the 2009 ATHENA Award.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly welcomes the opportunity to support those individuals who strive for gender equity in all facets of society and work to create leadership opportunities for women, thus permitting society to benefit from the particular characteristics and qualities that women bring to leadership in business, government, the arts and sciences, or any other realm of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Penelope Uselton, winner of the 2009 ATHENA Award for her professional achievements, community service, and for actively and generously assisting others in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, first implemented in Lansing, Michigan, in 1982, the ATHENA Award is presented annually in hundreds of cities throughout the United States and Canada; taking the form of a hand-cast, bronze sculpture, the award symbolizes the strength, courage, and wisdom of the recipient; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ATHENA Award was sponsored and presented by Dr. Linda Hunter of the Kingston Chiropractic Center; and

WHEREAS, founded on the belief that leadership excellence should be sought from every segment of society, the Award represents a balance of leadership by identifying and honoring those individuals who assist others in reaching their full potential; and

WHEREAS, each year, numerous worthy nominations are submitted for the award, and the selection committee evaluates the candidates on how well they are actively assisting women in realizing their full potential, whether that assistance takes the form of mentoring, providing

employment or educational activities, or any other demonstration of investment in the welfare, in the professional realm or otherwise, of women; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the individual must demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in her business or profession and provide valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and

WHEREAS, a deeply respected community leader, Penelope Uselton meets and exceeds this criteria, bringing to her community a diverse history of memberships and leadership roles that have shaped her and that now enable her to offer support to others; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uselton has served six years as a board member for the Roane County Chamber of Commerce, having stood as Chair and Treasurer of the Finance and Education committees; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Leadership Roane County, she has given of her time and many talents as a member of the Alumni Board for the program, and, in 2001, she graduated from the East Tennessee Regional Leadership class; and

WHEREAS, Penelope Uselton has been instrumental as a founder and mentor for the Youth Leadership program in Roane County, which has become an essential element in the County's three-star designation; and

WHEREAS, as Coordinator of the Junior Achievement Exchange City program for Kingston Elementary School, she encouraged other businesses in the community to join her in assisting with the program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uselton has been a valuable member of the Board of Junior Achievement of East Tennessee and is past President of the Roane County Association of Women Executives; and

WHEREAS, flourishing in her professional life as well as in her community involvement, Ms. Uselton worked as the Cash Management Coordinators for a publicly-traded company and a billion-dollar private company in Nashville prior to moving to East Tennessee; she also served as an officer in the Financial Managers Association; and

WHEREAS, currently standing as the Treasurer and Firm Administrator of her company, Penelope Uselton oversees a number of vendor relationships; she also operated as the project manager for the construction of the firm's new office building; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Uselton has always demonstrated superb administrative, time management, and organizational skills in her professional life, while gracefully balancing her family, professional, community, and church commitments; and

WHEREAS, she is a faithful and active member of the Kingston Church of Christ, volunteering her time as a Sunday school teacher, a women's Time Management class teacher, and as the Bible School Coordinator, a position that allowed her to include in the curriculum a Habitat for Humanity project in which the children purchased lawn care items to distribute to Habitat homeowners; and

WHEREAS, as a self-described "band mom" and "tennis mom," Penelope Uselton often coordinates the annual fruit sales program for the band, chaperones Roane County High School and Cherokee Middle School band trips, and assists and helps transport the tennis team; and

WHEREAS, Penelope Uselton's is perhaps most grateful for the love and support of her two daughters, Katie and Anna Lauren, who she has always considered to be her utmost priority; and

WHEREAS, Penelope Uselton is an exemplary public servant and diligent professional who is dedicated to the highest tenets of leadership and excellence, mentoring women into their full potential and working daily to make her community a better place to live, and she is most deserving of the ATHENA Award for her outstanding contributions; 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 honor and congratulate Penelope Uselton upon receiving the distinguished 2009 ATHENA Award, thank her for meritorious service to the women of Tennessee and to her community, and extend to her our best wishes for every 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.