

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 693

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Leadership Blount
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations that encourage success and effective leadership by their participants; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Leadership Blount which positively influences Blount County citizens by teaching effective leadership skills and providing networking opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the roots of Leadership Blount can be back to 1988, when a proposal was made to form a community leadership program to identify and increase the number of volunteers supporting various organizations in Blount County that would train individuals into every aspect of the community in order to build the volunteer base of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, seeking to bring this endeavor to fruition, a steering committee comprised of board members from United Way and the Chamber of Commerce was created in 1989. Sara Pope (Berry), Terry Igoe, Al Grubb, Pete Carter, Roswell Evans, Dean Stone, Charlie Roach, Dan Lawson, Bobbie Carpenter, Bill Adams, Mike Davis, and Bill Proffitt all participated as members of this committee; and

WHEREAS, after hiring Debbie Akins as the first executive director, Leadership Blount enrolled its inaugural class in 1990. This class taught local citizens to identify, train, and motivate their fellow citizens through community service; and

WHEREAS, selecting participants with diverse backgrounds and both established and potential community leaders, Leadership Blount has now graduated almost 450 individuals to

assume leadership roles in civic, economic development, cultural, and philanthropic organizations and groups throughout Blount County; and

WHEREAS, the immediate success of the program led to the establishment of a similar effort at the high school level; Youth Leadership Blount was initiated in 1995 under the guidance of Dr. Sue Wyatt and graduated its first class in 1996. Now in its ninth year, the program enjoys the direction of Ms. Amy Large; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the twelve sessions of topic-based programming, each Youth Leadership Blount class has adopted responsibilities in the community, both as a group through class projects and as individuals as part of the graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, special milestones observed in the history of Leadership Blount include the formation of the Alumni Forums in 1992, the hiring of Carolyn Forster as Executive Director in 1996, the establishment of the Community Leadership Award in 2000, and the hiring of P.J. Eubanks as Director of Youth Leadership Blount that same year; and

WHEREAS, housed for many years at Union Planter's Bank, the offices of Leadership Blount were permanently moved to a space in Alexander House on the campus of Maryville College in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Leadership Blount joined with Maryville College in hosting a Leadership Summit for local elected officials and welcomed Cathy Cate as its new executive director following the retirement of Carolyn Forster; and

WHEREAS, always adhering to its mission statement, Leadership Blount's goals are to enhance leadership in Blount County, develop a greater sense of community and a means of communicating among its leaders, and improve the quality of life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Blount is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State" and this worthy organization should be specially recognized; 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 commend Leadership Blount for their laudable service to the

people of Blount County and this State and thank Leadership Blount's current members and graduates for striving to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens.

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