HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 248

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Thomas Wilson Beasley on the occasion of the fiftieth reunion of Smith County High School's Class of 1961.

WHEREAS, high school reunions are an important part of the fabric of our society, because they provide an excellent opportunity to fondly remember the past, renew old acquaintances, and to embrace and look forward to the future; and

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and congratulate those graduates of Tennessee public schools, both past and present, who have brought great honor and acclaim to our State through both their personal and professional successes; and

WHEREAS, Smith County High School's Class of 1961 is one such worthy group of individuals who will join together on April 30, 2011, to celebrate their fiftieth high school reunion; and

WHEREAS, at this much-anticipated gathering, the former classmates will honor and recognize Thomas Wilson "Wish" Beasley, a distinguished alumnus who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born on January 8, 1943, Mr. Beasley is the son of the late Lewis and Elizabeth Beasley; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Tom Beasley graduated from the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966 and served with courage and an unfailing sense of duty in Vietnam, the Panama Canal Zone, and the Republic of Nicaragua as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. Mr. Beasley was later appointed as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished military career, Mr. Beasley earned a plethora of honors and medals, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star with V for Valor and an Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with V for Valor and an Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Qualification Wings, and Jungle Expert Badge; and

WHEREAS, Tom Beasley was joined in holy matrimony with Wendy Williams on December 29, 1973, in Carthage, Tennessee, and the blessed union produced three children and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Vanderbilt Law School, Mr. Beasley practiced law with acumen and alacrity at White, Regen, Burch, and Beasley from 1973 until 1977, during which time he impressed his colleagues and clients alike with his professional demeanor, strong writing and research skills, and peerless initiative; and

WHEREAS, an indispensible member of the Grand Old Party, Tom Beasley was the driving force behind Robin Beard's election to Congress in 1972, tirelessly contributed his time and tremendous talents as the Chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party from 1977 until 1981, and expertly served on Governor Lamar Alexander's search committee for a Commissioner of Corrections for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beasley is also an astute businessman who listened to his entrepreneurial spirit, harnessed his expertise on public corrections and partnership opportunities, and founded the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) in 1983; and

WHEREAS, having rendered sterling service as the President and Chief Executive Officer of CCA from 1983 until 1987 and the Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1987 until 1994; because of his leadership, CCA is now the largest provider of outsourced corrections management services in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Mr. Beasley is the founder and former chairman of Community Education Partners and member of the Board of Education Corporation of America, the State of Tennessee's Board of Regents, and the Board of Trustees of Cumberland University. He also

established the Thomas W. Beasley Scholarship in 1997 to award scholarships at Vanderbilt University to veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, a highly influential figure in his profession and community, Tom Beasley is a member of the American Bar Association and the American Correctional Association, a board member of Horizon Resources Group, Inc., and the Tennessee Nature Conservancy, a graduate of Leadership Nashville, Inc. and a former member of the Nashville Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Beasley was named Vanderbilt Law School's Distinguished Alumnus for 2006 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Cumberland University, and when Smith County High School decided to construct a new multi-function athletic complex, it was named the "Tom 'Wish' Beasley/Alumni Sports Center" in his honor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Tom Beasley is most grateful of the love and support he shares with his beloved wife and his family. He is the proud father and father-in-law of Kristin Hernandez and her husband Luis; Matthew Lewis Beasley; and John Etherage "Jeb" Beasley and his wife Melissa; and is the doting grandfather of Noah Wilson Beasley, Samuel Ethan Beasley, and Olivia Lee Beasley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beasley will join his fellow members of the Smith County Class of 1961 from across the country as they reunite on this very special weekend to celebrate their commitment to friendships and the joys of togetherness; and

WHEREAS, in these trying and turbulent times, sound friendships such as those held among members of the Smith County Class of 1961 are beacons of sanity and harmony, and their love and unity foretell a better tomorrow for all of us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize a distinguished member of the Smith County High School Class of 1961, Thomas Wilson "Wish" Beasley, upon the very special occasion of the class's fiftieth high school reunion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish these alumni great jubilance and fine fellowship during this reunion as they take pride in having graduated from an esteemed educational institution of the great State of Tennessee.

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