

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 49

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend David Keith for his estimable service as Campaign Chairman of the National Association to Protect Children.

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

WHEREAS, one such individual is David Keith of Knoxville, a successful actor who has worked assiduously on behalf of our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, evincing his belief that community service is an essential element of citizenship, Mr. Keith has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished television and movie actor, David Keith has starred in over eighty Hollywood films, including "An Officer and a Gentleman," "Brubaker," and "Men of Honor," yet Mr. Keith would undoubtedly agree that his greatest role to date is serving as Campaign Chairman of the National Association to Protect Children (PROTECT); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith teamed with PROTECT in 2004 in a successful effort to reform Tennessee law on the introduction of evidence in child abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, he also led the way to the passage of such important legislation as Haley's Law, which raised most child abuse charges to felonies, added new changes to the code for aggravated child neglect and endangerment, and added mandatory life sentences for anyone convicted of child torture in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, David Keith's tireless efforts in support of California's Circle of Trust bill proved invaluable to its passage in 2005; and

WHEREAS, his successful lobbying efforts also led to the passage of Alicia's Law in three states; this important legislation provides much-needed resources to law enforcement task forces in their fight to rescue children from child pornographers; and

WHEREAS, the son of Lemuel Grady Keith, Jr., and Hilda Earle Keith, David Keith began his acting career as a member of the Clarence Brown Theatre Company at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Theater in 1975; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Mr. Keith moved to New York City and acted at Connecticut's Goodspeed Opera House in the country and western musical "The Red Bluegrass Western Flyer Show" in 1977; after relocating to Los Angeles, he joined the cast of the popular ABC sitcom "Happy Days" in 1978; and

WHEREAS, David Keith is best known to audiences for his role in the feature film "An Officer and a Gentleman," for which he received two Golden Globe Award nominations and the ShoWest Award for Male Star of Tomorrow; his film credits include "Daredevil," "U-571," "Behind Enemy Lines," "Men of Honor," "Major League II," "Raise Your Voice," "The Two Jakes," "The Indian in the Cupboard," and numerous other popular films; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith's many television credits include "Arli\$\$," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Still Life," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "High Incident," "The Outer Limits," "NCIS," "Martial Law" and "Walker, Texas Ranger"; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee and beyond, Mr. Keith is considered a leading advocate for children, and as Campaign Chairman of the National Association to Protect Children he is committed to building a powerful, nonpartisan force for the protection of children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect; and

WHEREAS, David Keith is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially honored for his unrivaled efforts on behalf of child protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that David Keith be recognized and commended for his invaluable efforts in positively impacting the lives of families and children in Tennessee and throughout the nation. We extend our deepest gratitude for his admirable service as Campaign Chairman of the National Association to Protect Children and wish him all the best in his 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.