

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 308

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson is one such distinguished public servant who has served both her constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction as a Senate member of the 104th through the 107th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Woodson has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the Sixth Senatorial District, and she has served her constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at her elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, born on March 6, 1972, Jamie Woodson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, while completing her education, Senator Woodson not only achieved outstanding academic success but was also selected Torchbearer, the highest honor an undergraduate may receive from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Speaker Pro Tempore Woodson currently renders sterling service as a member of the Education Committee; Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee; Finance, Ways, and Means Committee; and Joint Veterans Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout her storied career, Jamie Woodson has stood at the forefront of almost every successful educational reform effort in Tennessee; she worked assiduously as the Chairman of the “First to the Top” Council and a member of the Steering Committee of the Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) and spearheaded countless educational initiatives, including the plan to overhaul Tennessee’s K-12 education funding formula, the expansion of Tennessee Public Charter Schools, the development of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, and the passage of Tennessee’s landmark “First to the Top” legislation; and

WHEREAS, as a valued member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Woodson was also the driving force behind legislation designed to protect children and require convicted sex offenders to provide key information to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable individual who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Jamie Woodson has graciously donated her time and energies to many community and civic organizations, including serving with distinction as an Executive Board Member of the Great Smoky Mountain Council of Boy Scouts of America; Advisory Board Member of the Junior League of Knoxville; Board Member of Habitat for Humanity, Hillcrest-Beverly Foundation, YMCA, Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont, John Sevier Foundation, and Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee; and member of the Executive Women’s Association, Nucleus Knoxville, Tennessee Horizon Network, South Knoxville Rotary, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, United States Equestrian Association, Legacy Parks Foundation, Leadership Knoxville Class of 2001, Knoxville Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, South Knox Republican Club, West Knox Republican Club, and Volunteer Women’s Republican Club; and

WHEREAS, a talented, astute, and productive attorney, Senator Woodson also serves with acumen and alacrity as the General Counsel for Camel Manufacturing Company; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Jamie Woodson received the Tennessee Parent-Teacher Association Lifetime Achievement Award for her vigorous efforts to ensure that every Tennessee student receives a world-class education; and

WHEREAS, prior to her exemplary tenure in the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore Woodson was an outstanding member of the House of Representatives, honorably representing her constituents throughout the 101st through 103rd General Assemblies and rendering sterling service as the House Republican Floor Leader; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious career as a public servant, Jamie Woodson has worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, having proven herself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Senator Woodson is eager to continue supporting and improving public education in Tennessee in her new role as the President and Chief Executive Officer of SCORE; and

WHEREAS, her many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Jamie Woodson is most appreciative of the love and companionships she shares with her husband, William E. Woodson, Jr., and she is the proud mother of Joseph, Elizabeth, and Caitlin; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore Woodson is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized for her distinguished tenure in this body; 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 we hereby honor Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson for her meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the Sixth Senatorial District, and extend to her our best wishes for much success and happiness 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.