

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 381

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Reverend Rick Kirchoff on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has been exceptionally fortunate during its history to benefit from the outstanding leadership provided by those committed Ministers of the Gospel who lead churches across this State and who, with their congregations, provide the bedrock strength that defines an orderly and just society; and

WHEREAS, one such committed pastor and church leader is Reverend Rick Kirchoff, who faithfully led the flock at Germantown United Methodist Church for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, after having dedicated four decades to the ministry, Reverend Kirchoff took a much deserved retirement from his position as a fulltime pastor on February 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, raised in a blue-collar neighborhood in segregated Memphis, Rick Kirchoff attended Kingsbury High School, trapped in what he calls "the greaser track" until his guidance counselor inspired him to seek and fully employ his God-given talents and facilitated his admittance into Lambuth College; and

WHEREAS, deeply believing that God's divine grace, love, and mercy extends to all people equally, Reverend Kirchoff, during his college years, joined with white and black students in staging worship sit-ins in the early 1960s at Jackson-area churches; and

WHEREAS, Rick Kirchoff served with acumen and alacrity as an insurance adjuster but after a few years, heard the divine call to the ministry and enrolled at Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kirchoff tirelessly contributed his time and tremendous talents as the associate pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, before joining Germantown United Methodist Church twelve years ago; and

WHEREAS, since taking the helm at Germantown UMC, Rick Kirchoff has served with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, using his gifts of teaching and preaching the Word to bring the Lost to Christ and becoming one of his community's best known "storytelling preachers"; and

WHEREAS, equipped with a deep and abiding faith and a vision to impact the world, Reverend Kirchoff inspired the Germantown UMC to expand its facilities and embark upon countless outreach missions both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, always seeking new ways to provide hope and communicate God's love to his community, this steadfast servant of the Almighty, with his deep, friendly voice, also shares his "Perceptions" every weekday on four Memphis radio stations; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Rick Kirchoff is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Jane, and he is the proud father of Julie and Chris; and

WHEREAS, since beginning his well-deserved retirement, Reverend Kirchoff is enjoying spending more time with his family and developing, cNET, a clergy coaching network for Methodist LeBonheur HealthCare's Center for Excellence in Faith and Health; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Reverend Kirchoff has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation; 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 honor the ministry of Reverend Rick Kirchoff, salute his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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.