

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 455

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend Terry J. Oliver for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

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

WHEREAS, Terry J. Oliver is one such laudable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors and who was recently named Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, as a sixth generation West Tennessee farmer, businessman, and public servant, Mr. Oliver has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and this great State; and

WHEREAS, a native of Gleason, Terry Oliver earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin and remains an active supporter of his alma mater, serving on the Advisory Council for the Governor's School of Agricultural Sciences, which is one of only three enrichment programs in the nation for high school agriculture students; and

WHEREAS, committed to the noble precepts of public service, Mr. Oliver honorably served his fellow Tennesseans as a member of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1977; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years, this remarkable man has demonstrated unselfish devotion to the Tennessee agriculture community, having served as the Deputy Commissioner for four Commissioners of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure at that vital post, Mr. Oliver spearheaded efforts to improve the effectiveness of the Division of Forestry and also played a significant role in the development and implementation of the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a

brilliant cost sharing plan designed to spur farm innovation and agricultural development in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, because of his proven leadership ability and unparalleled commitment to Tennessee farms, Terry Oliver was appointed the 35th Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture on August 16, 2010, and has since displayed the highest degree of professional as he leads this Department in providing a variety of consumer protection services, promoting farm products, and encouraging the sustainable management of forest and farmland resources; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a dedicated and conscientious public servant, Commissioner Terry Oliver still finds time to lend his extraordinary abilities to many noteworthy organizations and served as a member of the USDA Farm Services Agency State Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Terry Oliver is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Marsha, with whom he resides on their family farm in Gleason; he is also the devoted father of Melissa Overton and Angie Morris and the doting grandfather of Rance and Katelyn Morris and Lakin Overton; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Terry J. Oliver is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; 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 commend Commissioner Terry J. Oliver for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, congratulate him upon being named Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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