

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 557

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize John J. Chiaramonte, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the 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, John J. Chiaramonte, Jr. is one such estimable person who has battled cancer on every front in Tennessee, serving for more than five years as Tennessee Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society from February 2006 to his retirement in December 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chiaramonte, after fourteen years as a cancer survivor, is again fighting this terrible disease and began a lengthy course of chemotherapy in July 2011, leaving him unable to continue the mission he has fought on the hill; and

WHEREAS, John Chiaramonte has built an understanding throughout state government that cancer is nonpartisan and has worked to increase awareness of the burden of cancer and the proven public policy measures that reduce that burden; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chiaramonte, working with legislators, administration officials, and advocacy volunteers, led the state in adopting the Tennessee Non-Smokers Protection Act, a statewide smoke-free workplace law in 2007, enabling Tennesseans to breathe smoke-free at numerous restaurants, hotels, and many other establishments and protecting countless people from the dangers of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chiaramonte, in 2007, rallied support to increase the cost of tobacco products as a deterrent to smoking; and

WHEREAS, he has successfully fought to maintain and even increase funding for the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, which screens thousands of underserved women in Tennessee each year; and

WHEREAS, John Chiaramonte increased the awareness of colon cancer's impact on Tennesseans and the necessity of early diagnosis and access to screening; and

WHEREAS, he has graciously donated his time and energies to numerous organizations, including the Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Coalition and the Campaign for a Healthy and Responsible Tennessee (CHART); and

WHEREAS, prior to his esteemed career as Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society, Mr. Chiaramonte spent thirty-seven years with the Olin Chemical Company, retiring in 2003 as Director of Government Affairs; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, John Chiaramonte is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, John Chiaramonte epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Chiaramonte has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and community; 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 and commend John Chiaramonte, Jr. for his service to the good people of the State of Tennessee and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a complete recovery, 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.