

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 266

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Melvin Wright for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the State Board of Education.

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, Melvin Wright, Sr., D.D.S. is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; Dr. Wright has served with distinction for nearly seventeen years on the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, first appointed to the Board in 1996 by Governor Sundquist, Dr. Wright was reappointed by Governor Bredesen to a second nine-year term in 2005 in recognition of his significant contributions to formulating sound educational policy in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Covington, Dr. Wright has been engaged in the private practice of general dentistry in Jackson for forty-five years, and he has also served as an instructor in the Department of Operative Dentistry at the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wright graduated from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry in 1958, and then attended Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, from which he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1965. He has also received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Lane College; and

WHEREAS, he has proven himself to be a valuable advocate for the dental profession through his service with several organizations; he is Past President of the Pan-Tennessee Dental Association, a Past Delegate and Trustee for the Fourth District of the National Dental Association, Vice-President of the National Dental Association Foundation, Past President of the Seventh District Dental Society, Past Vice-President for West Tennessee of the Tennessee Dental Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Dentists; and

WHEREAS, a proud veteran of this nation's military, Dr. Wright served five years in the U.S. Army's Dental Corps, in which he attained the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in civic involvement, Dr. Wright is a member of the Board of Trustees for Lane College, Past President of Goals for Jackson, a member and Past Chair of the Jackson Madison County Area Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Jackson Rotary Club, a Life Member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a former member of the Board of Directors and Past Chairman of The United Way of Madison County, a former member of the Board of Directors, Past Vice-President of Development, and Past President of the Jackson Symphony Association, a founding member of 100 Black Men of West Tennessee, Inc., and a former member of the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, he has received the Lane College Meritorious Award, Mason of the Year honors, the Distinguished Fellowship Service Award from the Tennessee Dental Association, the Outstanding Service Award from the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, Outstanding Service Award from Tennessee State University, and Outstanding Instructor of the Year laurels from the Pre Alumni Council of the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wright expresses his faith as a member of St. Paul C.M.E. Church, where he serves as Vice Chairman of Stewards; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Wright is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Georgia Ann Robinson Wright, and their children, Melinda and Melvin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Melvin Wright 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 for his meritorious service on the State Board of Education; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Melvin Wright, Sr., for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the State Board of Education, salute his

unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for much 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.