

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 728

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to recognize Deputy Chief Mike Culberson on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Mike Culberson, Deputy Chief of the Franklin Fire Department, is one such estimable person who served with distinction for more than thirty-four years as a proud member of the Franklin Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, after joining the Franklin Fire Department in 1979, he worked his way up through the ranks, gaining promotion first to Engineer before ascending to the positions of Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, and, in 2007, Deputy Chief, a position in which he has served with an unwavering dedication to excellence. Deputy Chief Culberson took a much deserved retirement from service to the Franklin Fire Department on February 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, though he is retired from service to the Franklin Fire Department, Mike Culberson has accepted the position of Assistant Chief for the City of LaVergne Fire Department, in which role he will surely bring to bear his many years of experience and his astute leadership abilities; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Franklin Fire Department in 1979, Mr. Culberson has witnessed a great many changes and an unprecedented period of growth within the department. In 1980, Franklin was a city of 12,000 with a single fire station, one which doubled as the police department and City Hall; the Franklin Fire Department now serves a population of more than 62,000, has six fire stations with another two soon to be built, and has 160 personnel who respond to more than 6,000 calls per year; and

WHEREAS, during his long career, Deputy Chief Culberson was on the scene for a number of memorable incidents, perhaps none quite as memorable as the house fire to which he and his crewmates responded on December 13, 1988. Despite sustaining an electrical shock which would send him to the hospital, Mike Culberson, with the help of Lieutenant Bill Fitzgerald, saved the lives of a woman and her son, an action for which both men were recognized with the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary leader, Mike Culberson takes pride in the fact that no on-duty firefighter deaths occurred during his watch as Deputy Chief, which is testimony to his reliance on the values of preparedness, experience, and education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Culberson is a second-generation firefighter. His father, J.W. Culberson, served with the Franklin Fire Department from 1963 until 1991, standing as Chief of the Department from 1976 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Culberson family has built a legacy of stalwart service to the community, one which continues through Mr. Culberson's children. His son, Michael, is a firefighter for the Metro Nashville Fire Department; his daughter, Joanna, is a Williamson County Sheriff's Deputy; and his daughter, Sarah, is a teacher for Metro Nashville Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mike Culberson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean. He and his wife, Chouree, live on a small farm in Wilson County, where together they raise Bernese Mountain Dogs. Mr. Culberson is also an avid bass fisherman who has competed in many bass fishing tournaments throughout the Southeastern United States and was recently selected as a member of the Ranger Boats Pro Staff; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mike Culberson demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; 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 extend to Mike Culberson our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling

retirement from the Franklin Fire Department 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.