

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 773

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William A. “Andy” Black on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a gentleman who devoted his career and his heart to serving Tennesseans with mental health and behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, this gentleman is William A. “Andy” Black, chief executive officer of the Helen Ross McNabb Center, a premier behavioral health provider in East Tennessee; effective June 30, 2014, Mr. Black will be taking a much deserved retirement but will remain close to the organization in an advisory role; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Andy Black worked in the field of social work for more than thirty-eight years and served the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation as director of development for seventeen years before accepting the position of CEO in 2003; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning of his career to his current position, Mr. Black has consistently been a leader in public service; from his service in the United States Army to working as a caseworker in Atlanta, he has always worked to improve his community and the lives of his neighbors; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Center has grown in both services and area to better fulfill its mission of “improving the lives of the people we serve;” the Center’s growth has increased access to quality behavioral health care for thousands of East Tennesseans facing mental health, addiction, and social issues, and Mr. Black has helped achieve this success through methodical planning, prolific support-raising, and inventive solutions; and

WHEREAS, he led the charge to expand access to care in rural communities and built out continuums of service that help those in our communities with the greatest needs and the

least resources; most recently, Mr. Black oversaw mergers with organizations such as Child and Family Tennessee, Fortwood Center of Chattanooga, Youth Emergency Shelter of Morristown, and the Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, when Mr. Black was named CEO, the Center served approximately 7,000 children and adults; last year, the Center served approximately 20,000 individuals in twenty-one East Tennessee counties. These statistics speak volumes about his abilities as a manager, fundraiser, and motivator of people; and

WHEREAS, he raised more than \$40 million on behalf of the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation, establishing a legacy that will ensure the sustainability of services long into the future; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Black's leadership, the Center has been committed to providing the best care, instead of being the biggest provider, and his fiscally conservative leadership has allowed the Center to direct its resources towards providing quality services to individuals in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Black further serves his profession and his community through various mental health, fundraising, educational, and civic organizations; he is a member of the board of directors and past chairman of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations, a former member of the board of directors of Healthcare21, a member of the Leadership Knoxville Class of 2005, former board president and a member of the Holston Hills Country Club, a 2009 class member of the Knox County Sheriff's Citizen Academy, former fundraising advisor for the Knoxville Housing Partnership, a founding member and past president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, a past member of the Knoxville Estate Planning Council, a member of the UT College of Social Work Board of Visitors, a board member of the Metro Drug Commission, and a board member of UT Chancellors Associates; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Black received his Master of Science in Social Work degree from The University of Tennessee College of Social Work and his bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and personal accomplishments aside, Andy Black is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Brenda, and sons, Logan and Luke; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career, Mr. Black provided access to excellent care, improved lives, and practiced true compassion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor William A. "Andy" Black on the occasion of his retirement, thank him for his many valuable contributions to behavioral health care as chief executive officer of the Helen Ross McNabb Center, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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