

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 812

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize Judge David Earl Durham on the occasion of his retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Judge David Earl Durham is one such respected and dedicated individual who has been an attorney for thirty-three years. Judge Durham, now serving as Criminal Court Judge, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, has announced he will be stepping down from the bench, and his retirement will mark the end of a stellar career; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Judge Durham is a native of Nashville who was born on April 20, 1956, to James and Claudine Durham. He attended public schools in Davidson and Wilson counties and graduated from Lebanon High School in 1974; and

WHEREAS, he matriculated to Cumberland College, now Cumberland University, from which he graduated in 1976. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, from which he graduated in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Judge Durham earned his degree in law from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1981 and upon his graduation from that august institution, founded a private practice in Lebanon with Judge Robert P. "Bob" Hamilton; and

WHEREAS, Judge Durham was appointed in 1984 by Secretary of State Gentry Crowell to serve as the Assistant State Coordinator of Elections, a position he held until 1987, when he was appointed by General Tom P. Thompson, Jr. to the office of Assistant District Attorney General for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment by Governor Phil Bredesen to the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Criminal Court bench, an appointment which was made on March 11, 2009, Judge Durham rendered sterling service as the Deputy District Attorney General, Criminal Division; and

WHEREAS, Judge Durham has been an active and important part of his profession and his community, participating in numerous worthy civic and professional organizations, including serving as a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and Tennessee Bar associations and the Tennessee Trial Judges Association, and for many years, he has offered his astute guidance and understanding of the law to various state and local law enforcement agencies, civic organizations, Parent Teacher Associations, and high school classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable David Durham also contributed his time and numerous talents to drafting the charter for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Task Force in 1988 and served on that organization's board of directors until his appointment to the bench; he is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean. He is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Tania, a teacher at Lebanon High School, their six children, and their eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Durham has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bench and the bar alike; 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 extend to Judge David Earl Durham our heartfelt wishes for 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.