

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 755

By Holsclaw

A RESOLUTION to recognize Fred Congdon on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Fred Congdon is one such estimable person who served with distinction as the executive director of the Association of County Mayors for twenty-five years, beginning in May 1990 and ending with his retirement on December 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a native of Erwin in Unicoi County and a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Fred Congdon entered politics in 1978 by winning an open seat to serve as Unicoi County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, he was appointed as probate judge through a private act of the General Assembly and continued to serve as county clerk. He held this dual position until 1986, when he defeated a twenty-year veteran and won election to the office of county executive of Unicoi County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Congdon chose not to run for re-election in 1990 and was selected by the Tennessee Association of County Executives to become that organization's first executive director. He guided the group through its transition to become the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a talented musician, Fred Congdon has produced bluegrass music as the chief executive officer of an old bluegrass record label, RichRTone Records, which was originally established in 1946; and

WHEREAS, a gifted composer, Mr. Congdon has written and recorded a number of songs, including "Pride of Tennessee," which was adopted as an official song of the State of Tennessee upon the passage of House Joint Resolution 221 of the 99th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a member of the board of directors for Electronic Magnetic Power Systems, Fred Congdon is a partner in Latimer Lighting in Georgia, which offers a private label LED light, compact fluorescent lights, and original equipment manufacturer replacement lighting to the automotive industry; and

WHEREAS, now a resident of Sumner County, Mr. Congdon enjoys the love and support of his wife, Ernie; their two sons, Ehren and Emil; and their seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, active members of their community, Fred Congdon and his wife are joint elders at Celebration of Life Church in Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, Fred Congdon exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Congdon has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, the membership of the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee, and the members of the General Assembly, both past and present; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Fred Congdon for his twenty-five years of distinguished service to the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee as we extend to him 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.