

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 557

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commend Jeffrey S. Henry for his honorable and astute service as Executive Director of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey S. Henry is one such worthy person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Executive Director of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Jeff Henry has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, licensed to practice law before the courts of the State of Tennessee, United States Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Services, and U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Mr. Henry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1968 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1971 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished Military Student in the ROTC Program at the University of Tennessee in 1968, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in December 1968 and designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate upon commissioning; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Henry began his legal career as an active duty Judge Advocate General's Corps Attorney, U.S. Army, in 1971, defending and prosecuting cases before military courts-martial; he further served as a claims officer, investigating and resolving claims against the federal government, and supervised initiation of government recovery claims against third parties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry entered private practice in 1975, and, in 1976, he was appointed Assistant District Attorney General, in which position he served until 1980; and

WHEREAS, after working in private practice from 1980 to 1989, he assumed the position of full-time legal counsel for the Tennessee National Guard, a position he held until his retirement from the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1997 as Lieutenant Colonel with twenty-eight years of commissioned service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry once again returned to private practice in February 1997 before joining the staff of the District Public Defender's Office for Rutherford and Cannon counties in November 1998; he became the Director of Research and Training for the Tennessee Public Defenders Conference in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Henry was elected Executive Director of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference in 2005 and subsequently reelected in 2008 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of the legal profession, Mr. Henry is a member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Tennessee Bar Association, and Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellows; and

WHEREAS, he has further lent his considerable skills and expertise to the Advisory Council to National Guard Bureau Chief Counsel, National Guard Association of the United States Executive Council, National Guard Association of Tennessee, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the American Bar Association Tennessee Death Penalty Assessment Team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Henry is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of forty-seven years, Mary Jane; daughter, Beth; son-in-law, Joey; and son, Shaw; and

WHEREAS, having devoted the past forty-five years of his life to the practice of law, Jeff Henry has announced his much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he is deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Jeffrey S. Henry for his honorable service to the good people of Tennessee as Executive Director of the District Public Defenders Conference, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our warmest wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

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