

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 773

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Janet R. Spraker on the occasion of her retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Janet R. Spraker is one such estimable individual, who retired in 2015 after an illustrious career with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC); and

WHEREAS, a licensed professional engineer, Janet Spraker holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, as director of Engineering Services at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for more than fifteen years, Ms. Spraker played a substantial role in truly transforming the physical environment at UTC, both in the present and in future development plans; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spraker had primary responsibility for several special planning projects, such as two campus and housing master plans, campus landscaping master plan, and campus signage and wayfinding master plans, and she played leading roles in several critical campus and community projects; the most recent campus master plan provides for enrollment growth from 11,000 to 15,000 in all aspects of campus development, including \$650 million in capital projects; and

WHEREAS, her managed projects, valued at over \$350 million, involve the identification and justification for projects and their scope, preparation of the annual capital submittal, project programming, design and construction oversight, and coordination with UTC staff, the University of Tennessee (UT) system, and numerous outside agencies; and

WHEREAS, the projects represent renovation or new construction of eighty-five percent of UTC's total square footage, a sixty percent increase in total square footage, and over \$30 million in infrastructure improvements, as well as numerous building systems, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and campus landscape improvements; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spraker awarded several time and material contracts essential to accomplishing work and providing emergency services in light of reductions in the in-house workforce, including General Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial Mechanical, and Moving Services; she also managed millions of dollars annually in projects contracted locally by UTC and directed all engineer and architect consulting contracts and deliverables; and

WHEREAS, she served on the Facilities Planning Committee, Exempt Staff Council, and Campus Landscape Committee and led or participated in numerous critical planning efforts, which include the UT Strategic Plan Task Force, Arena Master Plan, Athletics Facility Upgrades Concepts, Lupton/FAC/Holt Repurposing Study, DRC Relocation-Space Concept Study, College of Business-Student Success Center-Space Concept Study, Built Environment Subcommittee for the Provost CCTA Committee, Intramural Task Force, and ABET Accreditation Team; and

WHEREAS, further, she initiated a highly successful intern program for engineering students, which has enhanced project management and greatly improved facilities' record document management; for her many contributions to UTC, Janet Spraker was selected to participate in the UT Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spraker provided essential facilities support for many of the University's partnerships with the Chattanooga community, including University Greenway, Sim Center Fuel Cell, Student Health Services, High-Tech Incubator-Accelerator, Community Research Council, UTC Place Housing, Engel Intramural/Sportsplex, City Citico CSO Facility, Riverfront Parkway Redesign Task Force, Public Art Committee, East 3rd Street-Central Avenue Institutional Stakeholder Meeting planning, and Urban Design Challenge; and

WHEREAS, she also served as the Brown Academy and City Streetscape liaison, a Coordinating Committee member of Thrive 2055-Regional Planning Initiative, a board member for Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, and a participant in UTC's College of Engineering ACES program as a mentor and speaker for young women interested in engineering and science education; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure at UTC, Ms. Spraker was committed to working with customers and staff to ensure that results met or exceeded customers' expectations and were cost-effectively operated and maintained; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by all who worked with her, Ms. Spraker often developed presentations or provided briefings on short notice for senior University administration with outstanding results; her accomplishments at UTC greatly enhanced the University's living, learning, and working environment; standing in the community; and ability to recruit and retain faculty, staff, and students; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Janet Spraker demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues, the administration, the staff, and the students of UTC; 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 honor and commend Janet R. Spraker on her retirement from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, thank her for her distinguished service as director of Engineering Services at UTC, and extend to her our warmest wishes for continued success in her 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.