

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Clif Tennison on the occasion of his retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Clif Tennison is one such estimable individual, who, after thirty-three years of serving others with skill and compassion as a board-certified psychiatrist, will be taking a much deserved retirement in late September of 2016; and

WHEREAS, committed to serving the people of East Tennessee, Dr. Tennison began his career at the Helen Ross McNabb Center in 1983 and has since remained at this institution. Over the years, he has earned the confidence of his colleagues and has been promoted to advancing positions of leadership, including assistant medical director in 1985, medical director in 1990, and, finally, vice president and chief clinical officer in 1996, the position from which he is retiring; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, Dr. Clif Tennison has treated thousands of patients, mentored hundreds of students, and molded a mission-minded culture for employees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tennison has committed his life to treating children and adults with a wide range of mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, practicing as a forensic psychiatrist as well, Dr. Tennison has served as a trusted consultant to the Knox County Sheriff's Department for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clif Tennison is a paragon of selfless and compassionate care, going beyond the typical duties associated with his position to help those in need; he has provided care to those in jails, hospitals, and homeless shelters; and

WHEREAS, a trusted professional in his field, Dr. Clif Tennison serves on a number of boards and is frequently called upon to provide trainings, speak on panels, and be interviewed by the media; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to his exceptional service, Dr. Tennison has been recognized as a *Knoxville Business Journal* Health Care Hero and a "Top Doc!" In 2008, he received his second award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, an award that is particularly meaningful as it is determined by patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clif Tennison exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Tennison has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues; 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 extend to Dr. Clif Tennison 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.