

SENATE RESOLUTION 138

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Billy Ray Cutlip, 2016 Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Free and Accepted Masons.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Billy Ray Cutlip, who was elected Junior Grand Warden on March 28, 2013, and advanced each year to be elected Most Worshipful Grand Master on March 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Grand Master Cutlip is attending the District 8 Meeting on May 21, 2016, at Al Menah Shrine Temple; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ray Cutlip was born to O. J. and Pansy Cutlip, on July 10, 1951, in Johnson City and graduated from Northeast State Community College in 1982; he was employed by Texas Instruments and Siemens for twenty-five years and is retired from Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin; and

WHEREAS, Brother Cutlip was raised a Master Mason in Arcana Lodge # 489 on December 21, 1974, and served as Worshipful Master in 1979 and 2004; he affiliated with and served as Worshipful Master of Johnson City Lodge # 486 in 2007 and is presently a member of Greenville Lodge # 3; and

WHEREAS, he served the Grand Lodge of Tennessee as Grand Pursuivant in 2004 and was on the Board of Custodians of the Work and Lectures from 2007 through 2011, serving as Chairman in 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Companion Cutlip was exalted in Thomas E. Matson Chapter # 131, R.A.M., at Johnson City in April 1975 and served as High Priest in 1981; he received the Order of High Priest Hood in 1981 and served the Grand Chapter as Grand Sentinel in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Companion Cutlip was greeted in Holston Council # 101 at Johnson City in April 1975, served as Illustrious Master in 1980, and received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 1980; he served the Grand Council as Grand Instructor for District # 3 from 2001 through 2004, served as Grand Steward in 1999, and received the Cryptic Mason of the Year award in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Sir Knight Cutlip was Knighted in Watauga Commandery # 25 at Johnson City in April 1975 and served as Eminent Commander in 1979; he also served Carter Commandery # 37 as Eminent Commander in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he received the Knight Crusaders of the Cross in 1985 and the Order of Knight Commanders in 1999; he served the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar as Grand Sword Bearer in 1982, served on the Ritual and Tactics Committee from 2000 through 2011, standing as Chairman in 2010 and 2011, and is a member of Holy Manger Tabernacle No. XLVIII, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; and

WHEREAS, he is a member of Tennessee Priory # 15, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, and served as Eminent Prior in 2008; he is a Past Governor of NET York Rite College and received The Order of the Purple Cross; and

WHEREAS, he received the Scottish Rite Degrees in the Valley of Knoxville in 1977 and was decorated a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1999; he was coroneted a 33rd Degree in 2003; and

WHEREAS, he is presently serving the Knoxville Valley as Washington County Membership Chairman and Venerable Master of the Knoxville Lodge of Perfection and Director of Work; he is also serving as the Assistant Personal Representative to the Knoxville Valley for the SGIG of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his other Masonic affiliations include: Past Sovereign of St Julian Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Past President of Upper East Tennessee York Rite Association; Past Excellent Chief of William W. Cannon Council # 79, Knight Masons; Past Sovereign Master of Jacob R. Denny Council # 359, Allied Masonic Degrees; Past President of the Tennessee Allied Masonic Degrees Association; Past Illustrious King, Council of Anointed Kings, Order of the Silver Trowel; Celebrant of Tennessee College Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis; Burlington Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon; C. Newton Bush, Past Master's Association; Tennessee Lodge of Research; Royal Order of Scotland; Nolichucky Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Jericho Temple, A.A.O.N.O.M.S.; and Charter Member of the Order of the Four Black Llamas, presently serving as Chaplain; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ray Cutlip epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Brother Cutlip is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Debra Ann Hilbert; their four children, Ken (Missy), Richard (Lynn), Christy, and Sara (James); and ten grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Billy Ray Cutlip for his dedication to Masonry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Billy Ray Cutlip, 2016 Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Free and Accepted Masons, welcome him to Nashville for the District 8 Meeting at Al Menah Shrine Temple, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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