

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1186

By Vaughan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kent Ritchey upon receiving the Ginny Award for his support of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary community leaders who serve their fellow citizens with concern and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Kent Ritchey, a forty-nine-year veteran of the automotive sales industry, is one such worthy individual; he has recently been honored with the Ginny Award by WREG, Channel 3 in recognition of his generous personal and financial support of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital through the Go Jim Go campaign; and

WHEREAS, in his professional life, Mr. Ritchey owns franchises for several motor vehicle brands in Memphis and Southaven and Jackson, Mississippi, and serves as chairman of the Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South and a member of the Buick GMC National Dealer Council and the Tennessee Automotive Association board of directors; and

WHEREAS, during his two-year tenure as president of the Greater Memphis Auto Dealers Association (GMADA), Mr. Ritchey increased association membership from thirty-five to fifty-four dealer members; oversaw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the association, which included donations to a different charitable organization each month; led efforts for GMADA to take ownership of the Memphis International Auto Show; spearheaded the initiative to start Moore Tech Automotive School with funding and support from GMADA; and continued to build strong relationships between the association and the Memphis community through charity initiatives and outreach; and

WHEREAS, a man with a strong social conscience who is deeply involved in his community, Mr. Ritchey is active with the education associations of Collierville, Germantown,

and Desoto County and is a major benefactor of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through his support of the FedEx St. Jude Classic and St. Jude Memphis Marathon; and

WHEREAS, in addition to donating his time and resources to Le Bonheur, Mr. Ritchey partners with Susan G. Komen Mid-South, serves on the Board of Visitors of the University of Memphis, and contributes to the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Ritchey has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of his alma mater, Hendrix College, and has received the President Circle Award from the Collierville Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, an avid hunter, Mr. Ritchey also collects wine; he and Mrs. Ritchey founded and later sold a winery and are currently owners in Cornerstone Winery in Napa Valley; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Ritchey is most grateful for the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife of forty-eight years, Janice, and their three children and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Kent Ritchey is a compassionate and civic-minded gentleman who contributes significantly to his community through his support of a wide variety of humanitarian services, and he should be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Kent Ritchey upon his receipt of the Ginny Award from WREG, Channel 3 in recognition of his generous support of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital through the Go Jim Go campaign and extend to him our best wishes for much 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.