

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1216

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor Hugh and Jody Brashear on twenty-five years of dedicated service to Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a couple who have worked with purpose and commitment to fulfill Habitat for Humanity's mission of building decent and affordable housing in local communities; and

WHEREAS, Hugh and Jody Brashear of Tellico Plains were pioneers in seeking their community's affiliation with Habitat for Humanity International and were instrumental in Loudon County becoming an affiliate on April 2, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brashear drafted the proposal for Loudon County Habitat's first grant, and ground was broken on its first house on April 13, 1993; and

WHEREAS, using resourcefulness, sheer determination, and the power of prayer, Hugh and Jody Brashear played major roles in guiding the young affiliate through its early struggles; Hugh Brashear served as planner and Jody Brashear as developer, attaining licensure as the first female general contractor in Loudon County; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Brashear's leadership, Loudon County Habitat for Humanity built five Zero Energy homes in partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Tennessee Valley Authority; in 2002, the first Green Power Switch residential contract was signed with a Habitat homeowner, bringing national and international attention to Loudon County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brashear's vision made Loudon County a leader among Habitat affiliates in building houses to Energy Star/EarthCraft specifications; and

WHEREAS, the Brashears have shared their love for nature by designing and implementing Habitat landscaping projects and creating a Habitat nursery to nurture donated trees and shrubs until planted at Habitat homes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Brashear helped establish the Habitat Home Store in 1995; because of their involvement and focus, the Home Store operates efficiently and generates enough funds to build two houses per year; and

WHEREAS, the Brashears have been active in every facet of Loudon County Habitat for Humanity; Mr. Brashear was the first volunteer executive director and co-chair of the building committee, served twelve years on the board and three years as president, and was chaplain for thirteen years, and Mrs. Brashear served as a board member for seven years and secretary for one year, was a member of the first family selection committee, and is Habitat's primary landscape designer; and

WHEREAS, they have also ministered to many Habitat families and homeowners on a personal basis; and

WHEREAS, Hugh and Jody Brashear have been generous donors to Habitat while instilling in their children the importance of helping others; their sons, daughter-in-law, and grandsons have volunteered with Habitat, and one of their sons made a financial donation to sponsor a house in memory of Hugh's mother; and

WHEREAS, because of Hugh and Jody Brashear's vision, inspiration, skills, and leadership, more than 110 low-income families in Loudon County have been given the opportunity to own a safe, decent, affordable home; \$9 million has been added to the property tax base through new Habitat construction; emergency repairs have been made to the homes of forty-one elderly and disabled families; and the Habitat Home Store has generated more than \$2 million in revenue and diverted more than 500 tons of material from the landfill; and

WHEREAS, Hugh and Jody Brashear have utilized their outstanding planning and organizational skills and their compassion for humanity for the benefit of Loudon County Habitat for Humanity, and they are most worthy of our accolades and approbation; 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 Hugh and Jody Brashear on twenty-five years of dedicated service to Loudon County Habitat for Humanity in a wide variety of capacities, commend their generosity and selflessness in serving their community, and wish them all the best in their 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.