

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 463

By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ellis Lavert Haguewood on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Lavert Haguewood is one such estimable individual who has served with distinction as headmaster of Memphis University School (MUS). After nearly fifty years of scholarly dedication, Mr. Haguewood will be taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Haguewood received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Harding College and his Master of Arts in English from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haguewood's first teaching job was at Sand Flat School in Marshall County, Mississippi; the next summer, he interviewed at MUS with Col. Ross Lynn, a man Ellis Haguewood came to admire to such a great degree that he chose Ross as his son's middle name; and

WHEREAS, by the fall of 1969, Mr. Haguewood began his work at Memphis University School; it would be a career of School Day Picture Days, morning announcements, teacher recruitment, academic advancement, campus improvement, and the character and development of forty-eight years' worth of young men; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career at Memphis University School, Mr. Haguewood spent the first twenty-six years as a full-time instructor in English and Biblical lessons. He also served as advisor to the literary magazine, the clerk of the course for track meets, and advisor to the yearbook, *The Owl*, from 1973 to 1987; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, he began taking on an increasing number of administrative duties, including director of student activities, dean of students, director of summer school, Upper School principal, Instructor of Religion, and since 1995, MUS headmaster; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-two-year tenure as the Headmaster of Memphis University School, Ellis Haguewood oversaw numerous improvements outside and within the school's halls; and

WHEREAS, a dozen major campus construction projects have been completed under his stalwart supervision, including works encompassing Hull Lower School, Dunavant Upper School, the Campus Center/Dining Hall, the Dunavant-Wellford Tennis Center, the McCaughan Science Center, the school's technology systems, Bloodworth Music Studio, Stokes Stadium, Thorn Field, the Field House, the Robotics Lab, the Kroeker-Petrosyan Fencing Center, and many other improvements. Mr. Haguewood himself led a capital campaign that raised \$22 million for the school; and

WHEREAS, under Ellis Haguewood's guidance, MUS enrollment increased from 557 students during the 1995-1996 school year to its present number of 620 students; 2,000 students have passed through MUS while Mr. Haguewood served as headmaster; and

WHEREAS, more importantly, today's MUS students receive ACT and SAT scores that run thirty percent higher than the national averages, and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation typically recognizes twenty to twenty-five percent of the senior class; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Fund has increased from \$250,000 to more than \$1.3 million last year; and

WHEREAS, Headmaster Haguewood attributes all of these improvements to hiring and taking care of an excellent staff, a staff that praised MUS to such a degree in an anonymous employee survey that *The Commercial Appeal* named MUS the Top Workplace in the schools category and also presented a special merit award for leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Haguewood is known for his ability to express his ideas eloquently, writing essays and letters with both scholarship and humor. To use the words of a former MUS

board chair and the current chairman and CEO of Baker Donelson Ben Adams, "His unique combination of references to the Bible and literature with his dry sense of humor and conviction always made his message clear, compelling, and memorable."; and

WHEREAS, the headmaster's wit is not limited to the pen, as the otherwise serious-minded headmaster has been known to break out into comical performances on occasion, most notably his satirical portrayal of E. Buddy Haguewood, School Day Picture Day master of ceremonies, and his recitation of the "15 Snappy RaHS" cheer during pep rallies, when he shouted out, "Let's make these quick and snappy!" to uproarious applause; and

WHEREAS, Headmaster Haguewood is fond of saying, "We are serious about what we do here, but we don't take ourselves too seriously."; and

WHEREAS, his stalwart guidance is not limited to the halls of his university, as Headmaster Haguewood is a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division ex-officio board member, and he represented the Memphis Association of Independent Schools and the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools. He has also served as a member of the TSSAA Division II committee since its inception in 1997, including two tenures as chairman. He was named to the TSSAA Hall of Fame in the spring of 2017, in part because of the forty state championships MUS won during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Haguewood received the 1990 John M. Nail Outstanding Teaching Award and the 1992 Distinguished Teaching Award; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Haguewood is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Peggy Jean Grandi. The pair met in seventh grade at Harding Academy, and after they both graduated from Harding College in 1967, they were united in holy matrimony a year later. The couple have two children, Alan, born in 1971, and Lisa, born in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haguewood's children saw their father's values, determination, and adherence to the MUS motto *Veritas Honorque* play out in their everyday lives, undoubtedly inspiring them from childhood to maturity; today, Alan Ross Haguewood is a corporate attorney with International Paper, and Lisa Haguewood is a communication specialist for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Headmaster Haguewood epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he has served with great diligence and dedication, and his tireless efforts in molding this State's youth and his positive impact on the lives of students, fellow teachers, administrators, athletes, and coaches will continue to resound in Tennessee for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life and estimable career, Ellis Haguewood has always conducted himself with the utmost Christian character and has demonstrated the epitome of professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his students and colleagues alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the invaluable contributions Ellis Lavert Haguewood has made to the education of our State's youth and extend to him 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.