

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 212

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Jackie Lee Upchurch on being named the 2019 Distinguished Alumni in Private Practice by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying homage to a gentleman who is revered as a hero in his community, a savior of small animals and beloved pets, an icon in the beef cattle and equine industries, and a role model for his clients, students, and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, for the past thirty-six years, Dr. Jackie Lee "Dr. Jack" Upchurch, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), has served the people and animals of Fentress County with the greatest ability, compassion, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a member of the fourth DVM graduating class at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Jack is now being honored as the 2019 Distinguished Alumni in Private Practice by his alma mater in recognition of his storied career and the positive impact he has made on so many lives, both animal and human; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1982, Dr. Upchurch worked for one year in Corbin, Kentucky, before returning to Jamestown, a mere twenty-minute journey from his childhood home in Pall Mall, in 1983, and on August 1 of that year, he opened the first veterinary clinic in Fentress County: Upchurch Animal Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack has previously served as the veterinarian for the Jamestown Stockyard and the East Tennessee Fall Classic Walking Horse Show, and he has been the veterinarian for the Jamestown Rotary Walking Horse Show and the Fentress County Fair Walking Horse Show since 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Dr. Jack began a partnership with the Fentress County and Pickett County health departments that has served pet owners well for the past thirty-three years; their annual rabies vaccination clinic offers vaccinations at a discounted rate at twelve different locations in those counties; and

WHEREAS, during the 2002-2003 Newcastle Disease outbreak, Dr. Jack worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for two years, testing birds for the disease and euthanizing those infected; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack also played an instrumental role during the only pseudorabies outbreak in Fentress County and Monterey by testing a new vaccine for hogs and researching its effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, a true lover of animals, Dr. Jack has worked closely with several rescue groups, including PAWS of Dale Hollow, Best Friends Sanctuary, Little Hills of Kentucky Animal Rescue, and the Animal Awareness Association of Overton County; for the past fourteen years, he has been the sole veterinary medical provider for PAWS of Dale Hollow, and he works with Best Friends Sanctuary to provide an annual low-cost spay/neuter clinic for pets; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack works with several clients who have service dogs, and his latest patients were two Saint Bernard puppies who were being trained in that capacity for Canines for Warriors; he has also served as the veterinarian for Fentress, Morgan, Scott, and Putnam counties' police dogs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack taught Cow College for many years for Fentress, Morgan, and Scott counties, and he recently partnered with the Fentress County University of Tennessee Extension office to sponsor a testing day for local farmers to help them determine the breeding soundness of their bulls; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his expertise as a veterinarian, Dr. Jack leads and influences by example; he has mentored five veterinary medical students who subsequently opened their own practices, a student who served as State Veterinarian, and a student who recently

interviewed for veterinary medical school; he has several high school students job-shadow him each year, and he currently has more than 5,100 clients; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack still practices at Upchurch Animal Clinic, with Dr. Kevin Chermack, DVM, working alongside him and his daughter, who serves as one of his veterinary technicians; he recently began working as the veterinarian for Triple W Livestock Auction in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, an Advanced Master Beef Producer, Dr. Upchurch is a valuable member of the Fentress County Cattlemen's Association and serves as vice president of the Fentress County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack is an active member of Greer's Chapel United Methodist Church, and he serves on the Fentress County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share love and companionship with his two children, five grandchildren, and a toy poodle that he loves dearly; in his spare time, Dr. Jack enjoys raising beef cattle, Tennessee Walking Horses, and Quarter Horses on his farm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Upchurch has established a standard for veterinary medical practitioners that is worthy of emulation, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Jackie Lee Upchurch on being named the 2019 Distinguished Alumni in Private Practice by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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