

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 517

By Hakeem

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Albert Woodard upon his induction into the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Gary W. Rollins College of Business Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should 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 businessman Albert Woodard, who was recently inducted into the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) Gary W. Rollins College of Business Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in recognition of the lasting impact he has made in and around Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Summit, Mr. Woodard received his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from UTC and his Master of Business Administration degree from the Georgia State University School of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Albert Woodard began his professional career as a system engineer at IBM, where he designed, developed, deployed, and supported computer systems for several large and medium-sized businesses; it was during his seven-year tenure at IBM that he was first introduced to the healthcare industry as he implemented and supported computer systems for a number of hospitals and insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard and a friend founded their own software company, Business Computer Applications, Inc., (BCA) in 1977, and it quickly became one of the fastest-growing small businesses in the South; after seven years in operation, BCA narrowed its focus and was soon recognized as one of the nation's leading healthcare information technology companies; and

WHEREAS, under Albert Woodard's leadership, BCA's work supported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Defense Military Health System, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of Health, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federally Qualified Health Centers; and

WHEREAS, BCA also deployed one of the country's first electronic medical records systems for the University of Texas Medical Branch and designed and built the world's largest telemedicine system outside of the U.S. Department of Defense; the company also developed long-term business relationships with a number of large hospital systems, county governments, and large private practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Albert Woodard sold BCA to Acentia, Inc., and relinquished his position of chairman, chief executive officer, and president; and

WHEREAS, eager for a new challenge, Mr. Woodard and several former BCA leaders opened a new healthcare software operation, KaZee, Inc., which he currently serves as chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, Albert Woodard has been recognized by the State of Tennessee as Minority Businessman of the Year and as the recipient of the Outstanding Achievements Award, and he was named Minority Businessman of the Year, Atlanta Region, by the U.S. Department of Commerce; he was named the 2006 Top Black Entrepreneur by *Engineer and Information Technology* magazine; and

WHEREAS, he has maintained a relationship with UTC since his college graduation: the university recognized him as the 1984 Outstanding Alumni, an honor never before given to an alumni within ten years of graduation; in 2017, he delivered the keynote speech to the graduating class and was a distinguished speaker in the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS); and in 2018, he was appointed to serve on the SECS Board of Advisors; and

WHEREAS, Albert Woodard has been a leader in his profession and his community through his work on the board of directors of Erlanger Medical Center, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, The Boys Club, Junior Achievement, Southern Star Systems, Inc., and

Genesis Children's Shelter, of which he is treasurer; he serves on the Citizens Advisory Board for the Adopt-A-School Program, as chairman of the board of Dalton College's Data Processing Advisory Committee, and on the Board of Advisors for OurHouse/Genesis Shelters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodard epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Albert Woodard for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 Albert Woodard upon his induction into the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Gary W. Rollins College of Business Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame and extend to him our best wishes for 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.