

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 616

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to commend Duke Gear for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session, this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Duke Gear is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Tammy Letzler; Mr. Gear's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators he has assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he is highly regarded by his peers, Duke Gear has achieved academic success in his collegiate career; he is pursuing a degree in political science with a minor in economics and has shown incredible hard work and diligence in his academic studies, enabling him to graduate *summa cum laude* in only seven semesters; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexities of Tennessee State government and to further his studies, Mr. Gear brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2019 session of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as an intern with the Chief Clerk's Office of the House of Representatives, Mr. Gear was assigned to staff the House State Committee, the House Local Committee, the House Consumer and Human Resources Committee, and the House Commerce Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2019 legislative session, Duke Gear has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, a native of Franklin, Duke Gear is the son of Donn Gear and Teresa Duggan Gear and the brother of Camille and Juliet Gear; and

WHEREAS, aside from his professional duties, Mr. Gear is very active in social collegiate activities and has utilized his skills during his tenure in various executive positions of his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, to help fundraise for the East Tennessee Children's Hospital through his fraternity's philanthropic event known as "Hurricane Week"; and

WHEREAS, excelling in academics and service at the collegiate level, Duke Gear is a member of the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and has rendered outstanding service through both fraternity service projects and participation in the University of Tennessee's Ignite Serves program, which seeks to give incoming freshman a chance to serve the local Knoxville community to better understand their new surroundings and challenges facing the local community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gear has shown an enthusiasm for learning about other cultures around the globe with his membership in Alliance Française in Knoxville, which seeks to immerse students in French culture and connect them with native French speakers currently residing in the Knoxville area; he intends to extend his learning about other cultures through his study abroad in Brussels, Belgium, this summer; and

WHEREAS, after completing his internship, Duke Gear intends to join the United States Peace Corps to further serve and learn about world cultures, before pursuing a career in public service as a Foreign Service Officer with the United States Department of State; and

WHEREAS, throughout the first regular session of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly, Duke Gear has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; 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 hereby commend Duke Gear for outstanding service as a legislative

intern for Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Tammy Letzler and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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