

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 777

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Billy Jay "B.J." Blankenship on his receipt of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated their time and energies to helping others; and

WHEREAS, each year, 1.6 million Tennessee volunteers give over 137 million hours of community service, contributing \$3.3 billion to Tennessee's economy; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are the backbone of our communities, and by donating their time and talents to fulfill needs that would otherwise go unmet, they embody the spirit of giving; and

WHEREAS, B.J. Blankenship of Lafayette is one such exemplary person, who is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award in recognition of his laudable commitment to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blankenship has been a member of the Lafayette Lions Club for twenty-five years and currently serves as an International Director for Lions Clubs International; he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Lindsay-Jennings Fellow with the Lions Club and was awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill Award by the International President in 2017; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his community, he works with the Macon County Board of Education in the Coordinated School Health Program to perform vision and hearing screenings; he also volunteers as Santa with local schools and libraries; and

WHEREAS, he served admirably for twenty-four years with the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, B.J. Blankenship is a model citizen; his commitment to helping others through volunteerism epitomizes the spirit of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; 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 Billy Jay "B.J." Blankenship for his outstanding community leadership and service to his country, congratulate him as an esteemed recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award, 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.