

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 944

By Boyd

A RESOLUTION to recognize Catherine Arlene Balkcom on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Arlene Balkcom is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for fourteen years as the association executive of the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA); and

WHEREAS, after many years of dedication and service, Mrs. Balkcom will be taking a much-deserved retirement on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, born in Sumter, South Carolina, on April 28, 1951, Cathy Balkcom is the daughter of Sara Messer and Sergeant Lloyd Messer, a World War II veteran; she graduated with honors from Lakeland High School in Lakeland, Florida, where she was raised; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Balkcom's employment history began with the Western Electric Company of Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked as a draftsman; she later worked as a teacher and as a Tupperware saleslady before finding tremendous success as an administrative assistant for numerous insurance companies in Murfreesboro while working with such Tennessee insurance legends as Martin Moseley, Phil Cavender, and Mike Becker; and

WHEREAS, after many focused years of hard work and study, Cathy Balkcom earned the Life Underwriting Training Council Fellow designation through American College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Balkcom found her perfect fit in the insurance industry as an association executive with the NAIFA, serving a total of fifteen years with the Middle Tennessee,

Nashville, and Tennessee chapters, encouraging and serving hundreds of leaders across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, she was honored as the national recipient of the C. Carney Smith Award from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, which is the highest honor bestowed upon an associate executive in the NAIFA federation; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Cathy Balkcom is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband of nearly fifty years, Harold, and their three children, Jennifer, Julie, and Neil, and five grandchildren, Alex, Anna Grace, Emma, Owen, and Rami; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Balkcom will enjoy her retirement years in her flower garden, shopping with friends, spending quality time with her close friends and family, eating gluten-free meals, and enjoying her favorite home improvement shows on HGTV; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Balkcom exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Cathy Balkcom has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; 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 extend to Catherine Arlene Balkcom our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.