

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1002

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to honor Assistant Commissioner Larry H. Maxwell on the occasion of his retirement from State government.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a public servant whose common-sense, yet decisive, approach to problem-solving has made him an invaluable asset to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Larry H. Maxwell, Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, is taking a much-deserved retirement after having served under an unprecedented eight governors and fourteen commissioners of agriculture during the past forty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Department of Agriculture in 1971 as an accountant, Mr. Maxwell has distinguished himself as an intelligent, innovative, and detail-oriented employee who is especially adept at finance management and accounting and truly enjoys challenges; and

WHEREAS, the dean of State government's fiscal officers, Larry Maxwell has been an integral part, and sometimes the main proponent, of nearly every major initiative in the Department of Agriculture for nearly five decades; his influence and impact on State government in general and the Department of Agriculture in particular cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, every year for nearly five decades, Mr. Maxwell crafted and delivered an agency budget that not only met the department's fundamental resource needs but did so with an impeccable record of fiscal integrity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his contributions as chief fiscal officer, he has also effectively managed the department's water resources programs to help landowners install conservation

projects; administered food distribution to service the school lunch program and charitable organizations; managed the agency's facilities, including Ellington Agricultural Center; guided information technology development; played a major role in implementing various programs, including grain indemnity and boll weevil eradication; and supervised the transfers of the Division of Forestry and the federal 319 soil and water conservation program to the department; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Mr. Maxwell skillfully guided the process of building approval, design, and construction of a new \$6 million weights and measures laboratory, which opened in 2018 at the Ellington Agricultural Center campus; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture with the Douglass-Irvin Administration Award, which recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions within a state agency resulting in improved efficiency and impact; and

WHEREAS, Larry Maxwell earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Tennessee Technological University, where he was a two-sport athlete, playing both baseball and basketball; and

WHEREAS, as a U.S. Army finance and accounting officer at Anniston Army Depot from 1969 to 1971, he was responsible for the accounting functions that supported the tank repair and munitions storage facility during the Vietnam War and attained the rank of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maxwell also served thirty-four years in the Tennessee Army National Guard in the finance unit and retired at the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, possessing a servant's heart, he works with young athletes and is active in his church; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Barbara, and his two children and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Maxwell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public as well; 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 Assistant Commissioner Larry H. Maxwell, Chief Administrative Officer for the Department of Agriculture, salute his forty-eight years of loyal and dedicated service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

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.