

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1246

By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Larry Wallace for his lifetime of service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a gentleman who has honorably served, protected, and educated the citizens of this State for a half-century; and

WHEREAS, Larry Wallace is a former Director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Colonel of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Senior Vice President at Tennessee Wesleyan University, and he is being honored by the university with the dedication of a plaza in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Larry Wallace is a sixth-generation native of McMinn County who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Executive Institute, Mr. Wallace began his exemplary forty-year career in law enforcement with the Athens Police Department; he joined the Tennessee Highway Patrol in 1967 and was promoted as a special agent with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Larry Wallace took a leave of absence from the TBI in 1976 to serve as sheriff of McMinn County; during his second term of elected office as sheriff, he was honored to be named the 1979 Tennessee Sheriff of the Year by the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wallace returned to the TBI and was promoted to special agent in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division in 1984; he was appointed Colonel and Commanding Officer of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) in 1987 and was named Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety the following year; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Larry Wallace was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter to serve a six-year term as director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the highest-ranking law enforcement official in the State; during his first term as director, the TBI became the third state criminal investigative agency in the country to receive international accreditation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wallace was reappointed to a second six-year term as TBI director by Governor Don Sundquist in 1998, and he remained in that position until his retirement from State government in December 2003; he has the distinction of being the only individual in the history of this State to serve as both Director of the TBI and Colonel of the THP; and

WHEREAS, returning home to McMinn County, Larry Wallace joined the faculty and staff of Tennessee Wesleyan University, where he developed and taught a criminal justice curriculum; he was named Vice President for External Affairs in 2005 and Vice President for Administration in 2007; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Mr. Wallace was promoted to the office of Senior Vice President, a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 2015; for his outstanding leadership and service, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the school, and today he serves as a member of the board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, Larry Wallace 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 Mr. Wallace 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 Larry Wallace for his lifetime of service to the citizens of Tennessee, congratulate him on the dedication of a plaza at Tennessee Wesleyan University in his honor, 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.