

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8023 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bonita Jo Atwood upon her election as Circuit Court Judge for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bonita Jo Atwood is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Judge Atwood was recently elected to serve a full two-year term as Division IV Circuit Court Judge for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, which presides over cases in Rutherford and Cannon counties; and

WHEREAS, when appointed by Governor Bill Lee on May 26, 2020, to complete the term of retiring Circuit Court Judge Royce Taylor, Bonita Jo Atwood became the first woman ever to serve as Circuit Court Judge for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, born and raised on her family's farm in Smith County, Judge Atwood earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Tennessee Technological University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Nashville School of Law in 1986; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, Bonita Jo Atwood has served as a managing partner at Atwood & Moore, a firm representing more than 7,000 clients in a wide scope of civil litigation, and previously served as an attorney with the law offices of Henry, Kious & Hall; and

WHEREAS, Judge Atwood is an active member of a number of civic organizations and has served as chairman of the Main Street board of directors and as a member of the boards of the United Way and the YMCA; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Bonita Jo Atwood enjoys the love and support of her husband, Mike Tobitt, and her son, Wesley Tobitt; and

WHEREAS, Judge Atwood is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she 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 hereby honor and congratulate Bonita Jo Atwood upon her election as Circuit Court Judge for the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and extend to her 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.