

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to commend David W. Purkey for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

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

WHEREAS, David W. Purkey has served as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security for two years; he will soon take his much-deserved retirement from this position, bringing to a close an exemplary tenure of devoted, capable service to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, David Purkey was appointed to head the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security by Governor Bill Haslam in September 2016, and since that time, he has guided the department with intellect, drive, commitment, and an affinity for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hamblen County, Commissioner David Purkey received his bachelor's degree in public health from East Tennessee State University and his master's degree in public health from the University of Tennessee; he is also a trained Emergency Medical Technician, a certification he has held for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, a proud military veteran, he honorably served as an officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Purkey has dedicated himself to state and local government and emergency management, serving as a 911 dispatcher, Morristown-Hamblen County Emergency Management director, and police accreditation manager for the City of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, a courageous public servant, he was assigned to the Nashville and Fall Branch districts during his tenure as a Tennessee state trooper, and he served as a special agent in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in the Chattanooga region; and

WHEREAS, appointed Hamblen County mayor in 1995, Commissioner David Purkey was elected to that same office for four consecutive terms; when he retired in 2010, Hamblen County held historically low property tax rates and the highest bond rating on record, and an audit recognized the county's record-setting rainy day reserve fund as well as its support of the largest building program in history, which addressed the needs of the Hamblen County Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Purkey's retirement was short-lived, as he was named a homeland security advisor and assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security in 2011; under his leadership, the Office of Homeland Security transformed into a proactive agency, overseeing school security plans, training citizens and law enforcement agencies in active shooter response, and leading the State's efforts to combat cybercrime; and

WHEREAS, a respected and trusted leader, Commissioner David Purkey served in a dual role as director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency from 2014 until 2016 in addition to his duties with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and honors, Commissioner Purkey received the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Service Award in 2012, and he was inducted into the Morristown-Hamblen High School West Hall of Fame in 2011; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Commissioner Purkey is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of twenty years, Pam; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner David Purkey is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we commend David W. Purkey for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and wish him all the best in his 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.