

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 126

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. James Ray McKinney on the occasion of his 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 years of service in the medical field; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Ray McKinney is one such estimable individual, who has served with distinction for fifty-eight years as a physician in the Greeneville community; he recently took his much-deserved retirement, bringing to a close this healthcare pioneer's nearly six decades of compassionate service to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McKinney began his career in 1960, when he, a young physician only twenty-six years of age, was drafted by Dr. L.E. Coolidge to join him at Takoma Hospital, now Takoma Regional Hospital, which Dr. Coolidge had founded; initially agreeing to sign on for one year as Dr. Coolidge built up a staff, Dr. McKinney spent the next fifty-eight years of his career at Takoma; and

WHEREAS, joining Dr. James McKinney shortly thereafter were Dr. Michael Odell and Dr. John Shaw; from those early years, the medical practice grew to include many more physicians and specialists, so that the firm later divided into several different local practices based on various specialties. However, Drs. McKinney, Odell, and Shaw remained with Takoma Medical Associates, a family and general practice; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Takoma Regional Hospital, Dr. McKinney witnessed a great deal of change; the first building to house the hospital was razed in the 1970s after the current building was constructed. The hospital and its medical campus have also undergone several major expansions and renovations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James McKinney is a beloved steward of the Greeneville community; in addition to providing the highest quality care to his patients, he served on the Takoma Regional Hospital board; he also played organ at community events, including weddings; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, he has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Phyllis McKinney, and their daughter, Karen McKinney Brown, and son, Dr. Mark McKinney; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McKinney exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. James McKinney has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public; 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 extend to Dr. James Ray McKinney our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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.