

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 196

By Robinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Thurston S. Smith on his receipt of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated their time and energies to helping others; and

WHEREAS, each year, 1.6 million Tennessee volunteers give over 137 million hours of community service, contributing \$3.3 billion to Tennessee's economy; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are the backbone of our communities, and by donating their time and talents to fulfill needs that would otherwise go unmet, they embody the spirit of giving; and

WHEREAS, Thurston S. Smith of Memphis is one such exemplary person, who is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award in recognition of his laudable commitment to his community; and

WHEREAS, a community organizer and public policy activist, Thurston Smith has served on the Shelby County Juvenile Justice Consortium (CJJC), Memphis Police Clergy Academy, Tennessee Community Resource Board for the Department of Correction, Shelby County Opioid Task Force, Shelby County Commission Community Health Advisory Committee, and Federal Advisory Committee to the Internal Revenue Service's National Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP); and

WHEREAS, a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and a recent retiree from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Smith currently serves as the Veterans Service Officer for American Legion Post 1 in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Smith has received a number of recognitions for his public service and advocacy, including the Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Superior Achievement Award in Coaching and Mentoring in 2016 and the 20 Year Federal Service Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Thurston Smith is a model citizen; his commitment to helping others through volunteerism epitomizes the spirit of 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 honor Thurston S. Smith for his outstanding community leadership, congratulate him as an esteemed recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award, 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.