

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 514

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to commend Senator Rosalind Kurita for her acumen and leadership as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those fellow legislators who have excelled in their duties; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosalind Kurita of Clarksville is one such dynamic public servant, who has twice distinguished herself as an outstanding member of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kurita was an exceptional asset to the citizens of Senate District 22 for twelve years as a member of the 100th through 105th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, after a vacancy occurred in Senate District 22, Rosalind Kurita was appointed by the Montgomery County Commission to serve in the interim before a special election, and thus, she returned to the Senate on January 14, 2019, after a ten-year absence; and

WHEREAS, she has turned in her usual excellent performance this session, but sadly, Senator Kurita will be leaving this body effective April 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 105th General Assembly, Senator Kurita also served as Vice Chairman of its General Welfare, Health, and Human Resources Committee, a member of the Transportation Committee, Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, and Select Committee on Rules, and a member of the Joint Oversight Committee on Workers' Compensation and the Military Affairs Commission Executive Committee during her first exemplary stint as a legislator; and

WHEREAS, a registered nurse by training and profession, Senator Kurita brought a practical and informed perspective to healthcare issues and legislation and was widely respected for her expertise in the area; and

WHEREAS, a Toll Fellowship recipient in 1999, Senator Kurita was honored as Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Academy of Pediatrics, Tennessee Child Care Association, American Lung Association, and Tennessee Human Resource Agency; and

WHEREAS, she received the Leadership Award from the Tennessee School Health Coalition and the Badge of Courage Award for Ethics for her work on campaign finance reform and was nominated for the Dr. Nathan Davis National Award to Outstanding State Legislators and the Athena award; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Senate, she was a valuable employee of the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, since beginning her political career as a member of the Montgomery County Commission, Senator Kurita has served this State and her community as a member of the Regional Board of Directors of the Tennessee County Commissioner Association; a board member of Urban Ministries, Nurses for Newborns, Tennessee Economic Council on Women, Tennessee Center for Nursing, and American Cancer Society; and a member of the Cheatham County Health Council, Montgomery County, Cheatham County, and Houston County Chambers of Commerce, Nashville Women Political Caucus, Austin Peay State University Tower Club, and Tennessee Nurses Association; she is an alumna of Leadership Middle Tennessee and the first class of Leadership Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, during her second tenure in the Senate, she has rendered astute service as a member of its Government Operations Committee and Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Judiciary and Government and Education, Health and General Welfare subcommittees of the Joint Government Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her meritorious legislative service, Rosalind Kurita is a member of the Clarksville Montgomery County Community Health Foundation Board of

Directors and the Nature Center Foundation; she has also been active in the MADD Red Ribbon campaign and sponsored the Montgomery County Science Fair; and

WHEREAS, now retired from nursing and the medical marketing business, she received her professional training at St. Anthony's School of Nursing and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and political accomplishments aside, Rosalind Kurita is indeed fortunate to share love and companionship with her husband, Dr. George Kurita; their children, Nathan Kurita, Megan Kurita, and Kyle Kurita; and their grandchildren, Marin Wilson Kurita, Maddox Culbertson Kurita, Carter Andrew Deere, and Edna Hatsuko Kurita Bright; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosalind Kurita embodies the qualities that have earned Tennessee worldwide fame as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized on this special occasion; 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 and commend Senator Rosalind Kurita for her acumen and leadership in representing her constituents in Senate District 22 during both her tenures in the General Assembly and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.