

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 980

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tom Crider on his distinguished service to the State of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 28th Judicial District 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 careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Tom Crider is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Tom Crider served with distinction for thirty years as the first District Public Defender for the 28th Judicial District, which encompasses Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood counties, and took his much-deserved retirement in April 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crider was elected to serve as the first District Public Defender for the 28th Judicial District after the office was instituted in 1989, and he subsequently won re-election to continue to serve in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, Tom Crider is a 1967 graduate of Peabody High School; he attended Vanderbilt University and spent one year at the University of Exeter in England as a Rotary Foundation Undergraduate Fellow. After receiving his undergraduate degree in 1972, he graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crider is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a former president of the Gibson County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Mr. Crider served in a number of positions within the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference; he was the

organization's president from 1992 to 1993 and the Western Tennessee District Representative on the executive committee, and he served as Legislative Committee chair and a member of the Ad Hoc Court Rules Committee and the Ad Hoc Expungement Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Tom Crider is secretary of the board of directors of Carey Counseling Center, to which he has lent his time and talents for more than twenty years, and a past member of the Gibson County Recovery Court; he has served on the Zoning Board and Zoning Appeals Board of Trenton and Gibson counties and for two terms on the Greater Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Board. He has also served as chairman of the Trenton Heart Fund and the Trenton Teapot Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crider is cofounder of TLC Riding Academy, Inc., a nonprofit, therapeutic riding program for people with disabilities, and he enjoys spending time at the academy cleaning the stalls; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout religious faith, Tom Crider was elected as a deacon and elder at First Presbyterian Church in Trenton and taught an adult Sunday school class for almost thirty years; he has also served as a lay director for the West Tennessee Emmaus Walk; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crider is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of forty-five years, Cheryl Crider, and their children, Adam and Patrick; he cherishes the memory of their son Brett; and

WHEREAS, Tom Crider exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Crider demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; 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 Tom Crider on his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 28th Judicial District and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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.