

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 911

By Powers

A RESOLUTION relative to altruistic efforts to combat substance abuse in Campbell County.

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

WHEREAS, such unselfish public servants can be witnessed in the efforts of Judge Shayne Sexton, Jerry Vagnier, Brad Franks, The Helen Ross McNab Center, and the Campbell County Anti-Drug Coalition to establish a drug-free living facility in their community; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County is experiencing a huge problem with substance abuse and illegal drug activity; local law enforcement records reveal that Campbell County has one of the highest incidences of drug related crimes per capita in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the regional drug court overseen by the Honorable Judge Shayne Sexton is attempting to address the needs of a five-county area in dealing with offenders who have drug issues and are seeking an alternative to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, realizing that substance abuse not only negatively effects the abuser, but also families and the community at-large, local leadership, including the above named parties and Representative Dennis Powers and Senator Ken Yager, commissioned a community needs assessment for Campbell County in September 2013 to gain a better understanding of available resources, gaps in services, and areas of need to combat substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell County Anti-Drug Coalition reviewed this report on October 7, 2013, and now strongly supports efforts to seek resources to address the significant alcohol and drug problems facing the community; and

WHEREAS, after assessing the substance abuse problems facing Campbell County, Judge Shayne Sexton, Jerry Vagnier, Brad Franks, The Helen Ross McNab Center, and the Campbell County Anti-Drug Coalition are actively seeking funds to establish a 10-12 bed drug-free living facility for adults, operated by a professional substance abuse provider; this sober living environment will be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by substance abuse professionals; and

WHEREAS, these visionary and compassionate individuals and organizations are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized for their humanitarian efforts in combating substance abuse; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Judge Shayne Sexton, Jerry Vagnier, Brad Franks, The Helen Ross McNab Center, the Campbell County Anti-Drug Coalition, and many others for their dedicated efforts to combat substance abuse in their community by establishing a drug-free living facility and salute their altruistic efforts to helping and serving others.

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