

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 64

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ben Downing Bray 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, Ben Downing Bray of Lafayette 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, for twenty-two years, Mr. Bray has donated his time and abilities as an auctioneer for a number of charities, nonprofit organizations, and fundraising events; he has conducted a charity auction in Lafayette to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis for nine years, raising more than \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his community, Ben Bray is a member of the Lafayette Rotary Club, the Macon County Education Foundation, and the Macon County Chamber of Commerce, and he serves on the board of directors of Macon Bank and Trust Company in Lafayette; he is also a member of the Macon County Arts Council and conducts the council's annual arts auction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bray is an active and devout member of First Baptist Church in Lafayette, where he serves faithfully as a deacon and young adult Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Ben Bray 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Ben Downing Bray 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.