

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 101

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to honor D. Michael Dunavant upon his meritorious service as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize a gifted attorney and prosecutor who has rendered astute service to the citizens of West Tennessee as U.S. Attorney; and

WHEREAS, D. Michael Dunavant, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, has announced his resignation, effective February 28, 2021, after nearly three and one-half years in office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunavant was sworn in as the fiftieth person to serve as the United States Attorney for the Western District on September 21, 2017, and in this capacity, he has supervised a total office staff of eighty-five federal employees; managed, overseen, and implemented a total annual operating office budget of over ten million dollars; and overseen the investigation, prosecution, and litigation of all criminal and civil cases brought on behalf of the United States in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as U.S. Attorney, Mr. Dunavant has protected the nearly 1.6 million citizens of West Tennessee through the vigorous enforcement of federal laws and prosecution of high-impact cases and operated a full-service U.S. Attorney's Office that has faithfully executed all applicable laws of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunavant has focused on aggressively prosecuting cases involving violent crime, child exploitation, immigration offenses, health care fraud, embezzlement, identity theft, public corruption, gang conspiracies and racketeering, drug trafficking organizations, and unlawful firearm possession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunavant supervised a Financial Litigation Unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office that collected more than seventy-six million dollars in criminal and civil actions for victims of crime and the United States Treasury; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Dunavant served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee's Violent and Organized Crime Subcommittee, Native American Issues Subcommittee, and the Controlled Substances Subcommittee, as a member of which he provided input and guidance on a Parcel Interdiction Initiative recommendation to the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dunavant was responsible for fully staffing both the Memphis and Jackson divisions of the U.S. Attorney's Office by hiring nearly one-half of the Office's current Assistant U.S. Attorneys along with one-third of the Office's support staff; and

WHEREAS, he created and appointed a dedicated Appellate Division responsible for handling all appeals in both criminal and civil matters in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; restructured the Criminal Division of the Memphis office into three distinct subject matter units for greater efficiency; increased the appointment and allocation of Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys from State prosecutor offices; and designated an Elder Justice Coordinator to target elder fraud and financial exploitation cases; and

WHEREAS, under his inspired leadership, the U.S. Attorney's Office was recognized by *The Commercial Appeal* with a Memphis Area Top Workplace Award in 2018; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as U.S. Attorney, Mr. Dunavant served as the elected District Attorney General for the 25th Judicial District of Tennessee from 2006 to 2017; for eleven years prior to that, he was a partner in the law firm of Carney, Wilder & Dunavant in Ripley; and

WHEREAS, as U.S. Attorney, D. Michael Dunavant has achieved justice for victims, brought about consequences for criminals, inspired support for law enforcement, protected the

U.S. Treasury, improved public safety results for citizens, and demanded respect for the rule of law, and he is worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend D. Michael Dunavant upon his illustrious tenure as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

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.