

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 105

By Sanderson

A RESOLUTION to commend Robert S. Kirk for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Alderman for the City of Dyersburg.

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, the longest serving elected official in the State of Tennessee, Robert S. "Bob" Kirk of Dyersburg is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary fifty-one-year tenure as an Alderman for the City of Dyersburg, Bob Kirk has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, born in Lenox on December 27, 1937, Robert S. Kirk is the son of Lear and Virginia Moody Kirk and attended Dyersburg High School, where he was a member of the Future Farmers of America and played on the Trojans basketball team; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in 1955, Mr. Kirk proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years and was stationed in Guam and California during his tour of duty; and

WHEREAS, Bob Kirk returned to Tennessee after completing his military service and began his distinguished career as an employee with Colonial Rubberworks, located in Dyersburg, in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk worked in the areas of human resources and public relations with Colonial Rubberworks and retired after thirty years in 1996, having most recently served as Director of Safety and Public Relations for the company; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Dyer County, Bob Kirk began his public service with the City of Dyersburg in 1967, when he first won election to the Dyersburg Board of Mayor and Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, over the next five decades, Mr. Kirk continued to win re-election as Alderman and even served a six-month tenure as interim mayor when the results of the 1980 mayoral election were contested; and

WHEREAS, Bob Kirk's numerous accomplishments during his time in office include improvements to the local school system, the opening of a new library facility, new commercial development and industries, the Dyersburg Industrial Park, and a variety of highway and transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk played an integral role in the establishment of an office of the Tennessee Highway Patrol in Dyersburg and worked diligently to secure the expansion of Lake Road from two to five lanes to ease traffic problems for the city; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to learn ways to improve the City of Dyersburg, Bob Kirk has been actively involved with the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) during his entire tenure as an alderman, attending every annual conference of this esteemed organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk has served as a member of the TML Board of Directors, chairman of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, and president of TML (2004-2005), as well as ably representing municipalities for eight years as a member of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR); and

WHEREAS, widely respected and admired by his peers across the State, Bob Kirk was most appropriately honored by TML in June 2018 when the organization announced the establishment of the Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award to be given annually to a council member, alderman, or commissioner who has shown himself or herself to be an outstanding public servant to both his or her municipality and community, going above and beyond the call of duty to better his or her community; and

WHEREAS, an active part of his community, Bob Kirk has served as president and chairman of the board of the Jaycees, Kiwanis Club president, president of the local hospital board, Dyer County Fair Board president, and president of the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber

of Commerce, in addition to his current service as vice chairman of the Governmental Legislative Committee for the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk is a 2004 graduate of the West Star program and served on the Board of Trustees for the organization for three years; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Kirk was named the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year in 1993, inducted into the Dyersburg City School System's inaugural Hall of Honor in 2014, and served as Grand Marshal of the annual Dyersburg Christmas Parade in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirk is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Carol, and his extended family; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Kirk is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as 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 hereby commend Robert S. Kirk for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Alderman for the City of Dyersburg and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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