

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 123

By Crawford

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jud Teague 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; and

WHEREAS, Jud Teague is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for sixteen years as the executive director of Visit Kingsport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Teague will take his much-deserved retirement on February 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a native of Powell, Mr. Teague has been in the tourism industry for over twenty-five years, a result of the passion which began with a love of sports instilled by his father and grandparents; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, Jud Teague began teaching biology in Knox County Schools; during his tenure as a teacher, he also coached baseball, football, and basketball at Bearden High School and Powell High School; and

WHEREAS, throughout his sixteen years of teaching, Mr. Teague spent countless hours volunteer coaching for Junior Pro sports and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and he worked closely with Knox Youth Sports, eventually being hired as their executive director and developing Lakeshore Park during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Jud Teague's commitment to youth baseball earned him a position on the AAU Baseball Executive Committee; he received the AAU National Baseball Volunteer of the Year award and the Disney Wide World of Sport's Award of Excellence for his efforts, which

also merited his hiring at Walt Disney World Resort as the Baseball Senior Sports Manager for AAU; and

WHEREAS, this impassioned work led to Mr. Teague becoming the director of program development for United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), in which position he played an instrumental role in the relocation of the USSSA headquarters to central Florida and was also awarded the USSSA Executive Director Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, he was hired as executive director of Visit Kingsport, and he utilized his previous connections to bring new and continued partnerships with AAU Basketball and Wrestling, USSSA Baseball, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the Appalachian Athletic Conference to Kingsport; these partnerships have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact for the community; and

WHEREAS, Jud Teague, in support of his son with Down syndrome, was instrumental in the creation of Kingsport's Eastman Credit Union Miracle Field Park, a sports complex that allows those with mental and physical disabilities to enjoy playing baseball, for the free and non-competitive Miracle League to use; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Visit Kingsport has received multiple Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Tourism from Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association, has doubled the lodging tax by attracting numerous sports tournaments and conferences to Kingsport, helped with the expansion of MeadowView Marriot Conference Resort and Convention Center, was pivotal to the creation of the Kingsport Aquatic Center, developed wayfinding signage for the city, and supported multiple improvement projects at Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium and Hunter Wright Stadium; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Mr. Teague was awarded the Tennessee Tourism Professional of the Year Award, the zenith of tourism honors in the State, from the Tennessee Hospitality &

Tourism Association for his more than two decades of excellence in tourism leadership in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving the needs of his community, Jud Teague generously donates his time and abundant talents to several charity and community organizations, including the TTR Board of Directors (now the TNHTA Board), the executive committee for AAU Athletics, the Kingsport Community Foundation, the Palmer Center Board of Directors, and the FRIENDS Down Syndrome Support Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Teague is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Cathy, and his children, Anne Marie Throne, Jordan, and Nicholas; and

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

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Jud Teague has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Jud Teague our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every 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.