

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 192

By Hall

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gary Farlow 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, Gary Farlow is one such estimable person, who has served with distinction as president and chief executive officer of the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce; he will take his much-deserved retirement on March 29, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Mr. Farlow has worked with the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce for sixteen years, including six years as vice president of economic development; during his tenure as president and chief executive officer, the Chamber and its partner organizations have been involved in economic development projects with capital investments exceeding \$3.5 billion, and the Chamber holds a four-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a prestigious distinction held by only 200 of the more than 7,000 chambers across the country; and

WHEREAS, Gary Farlow has championed workforce development and job preparedness, particularly as an advocate for the Your Skills Your Future project, which meets employers' needs for a qualified workforce and has been utilized in neighboring counties; he has also overseen the successful Momentum '22: Investing in Tomorrow capital campaign, which has raised \$1.6 million in crucial funds for economic, workforce, and community development; and

WHEREAS, a native of Salisbury, Maryland, Mr. Farlow previously served as president and chief executive officer of the Greene County Partnership and worked for the Blount County Chamber Partnership and Blount County Industrial Development Board; he was also the city

planner for the City of Maryville and director of planning for the Blount County Planning Commission, Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and City of Knoxville Community and Economic Development Department; and

WHEREAS, Gary Farlow is a member of the Greater Chattanooga Economic Partnership and Thrive 2055 Board, and he served as chairman of the Thrive Economic Development Initiative and president of the Tennessee Economic Development Council; he also serves on the board of the Bradley/Cleveland Industrial Community Board, Cleveland/Bradley Chamber Economic Development Council, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board, Partnership in Industry and Education, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives, Lee University School of Business – Business Advisory Council, Business Roundtable, and Tennessee Advisory Task Force on General Aviation Airports; and

WHEREAS, a notable civic leader in his community, Mr. Farlow is a member of the Cleveland Kiwanis Club and serves on the board of directors and executive committee for the United Way of the Ocoee Region; he is also a past board member of MainStreet Cleveland and the founder and chairman of the Hiwassee River Blueway; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized for his business acumen as the 2009 recipient of the Fred Harris Professional of the Year award from the Tennessee Economic Development Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Farlow evinces his devout religious faith as a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Farlow is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife of forty-five years, Sandy; his children, Bryan and Claire; and his grandchildren, Elijah and Ben; and

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

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Gary Farlow 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we extend to Gary Farlow 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.