

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 468

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Steve Trout, Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association's 2017 Retailer of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those dedicated individuals who excel in their chosen field of endeavor, serving as exemplars for all who follow after them; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Steve Trout of Kodak, district manager of K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., who was recently named Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association's 2017 Retailer of the Year, an honor most befitting his many years of astute service and commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, a native of Belfry, Kentucky, Mr. Trout began working at Piggly Wiggly in 1969 as a student at Belfry High School; after a brief absence while he attended Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, he returned to the company, quickly learning the ropes of the grocery industry; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career with K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., Steve Trout has served in various capacities, beginning as a courtesy clerk and rising through the ranks to serve as produce clerk, assistant produce manager, produce manager, assistant store manager, store manager, vice president of store operations for the Knoxville Division, and, finally, district manager; and

WHEREAS, as district manager, Mr. Trout is responsible for the total store operations of thirteen supermarkets located throughout Sevier, Union, Grainger, and east Knox counties; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected leader in his profession, Mr. Trout was a member of the board of the Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association from 1996-2002, the last two

years of which tenure he served as board chairman; from 2012-2016, he was a member of the Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation Board of Trustees and also served as chairman of the East Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation Golf Committee, an organization that inducted him into the Hall of Eagles for his fundraising efforts and of which he remains an active member; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the devastating Gatlinburg wildfires, Mr. Trout was appointed to the Gatlinburg/Sevier County Relief Fund Oversight Committee, which was responsible for the disbursement of more than \$1 million in funds to those affected by the disaster; he also served on a committee with the Sevier County Economic Development group to set guidelines for the Mountain Tough Recovery Card; and

WHEREAS, Steve Trout has also given back to his community by participating in various civic organizations over the years, including Second Harvest Food Bank and the American Red Cross, both of which he served for a time as a board member; he has also worked extensively with Cure Finders, a local organization dedicated to finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis—a cause dear to his heart, as his daughter La'Shanna passed away in January 2003 after a lengthy battle with Cystic Fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to his family, Mr. Trout enjoys the love and companionship of his wife of forty years, Tolena; they are the proud parents of two daughters, the late La'Shanna and Brandi, and the doting grandparents of one adorable grandson, Cade; and

WHEREAS, Steve Trout is a consummate professional and an exemplary citizen who strives to better his community, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and congratulate Steve Trout upon being named Tennessee Grocers & Convenience Store Association's 2017 Retailer of the Year, wishing him much success and happiness in all 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.