

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 561

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to recognize Judge John A. Turnbull on the occasion of his retirement as Circuit Court Judge from the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge John A. Turnbull is one such noteworthy jurist who has served with distinction as Circuit Court Judge for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District since his appointment in August of 1989; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary twenty year tenure as a Circuit Court Judge, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, prior to his illustrious career as Circuit Court Judge for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Judge Turnbull rendered sterling service as an attorney in private practice for over twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Turnbull earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1966; and

WHEREAS, upon passing the Tennessee Bar Exam, he served with acumen and alacrity as an attorney in private practice for Roberts and Roberts in Livingston, and then as partner in the Roberts and Turnbull law firm; he later formed the Law Office of John A. Turnbull, serving with integrity and expertise as legal counsel until his appointment as Circuit Judge in 1989; and

WHEREAS, while in private practice, he served in high regard as a civil plaintiff attorney, civil defense attorney, criminal defense attorney, and as a special prosecutor in three murder cases; and

WHEREAS, evincing the greatest probity and utmost professionalism, he acted as the attorney for the Town of Livingston and the Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative Corporation, and he served as a mediation Judge offering his esteemed counsel on over 1,000 settlement cases; and

WHEREAS, Judge Turnbull has lent his singular skills and leadership abilities to several legal societies and committees, including serving as a member of the Board of Governors, as president, and as legislative chair of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; founding board member of the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society; chair of the Bench-Bar Relations Committee; member of the Tennessee Pattern Jury Instructions Committee; and treasurer of the Tennessee Judicial Conference; and

WHEREAS, he is a distinguished member of several legal organizations, including the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Tennessee Bar Association as well as a Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades for his dedicated service, Judge Turnbull was the honored recipient of the first annual Charlie Hardin Award for exceptional service to the community, selected as Tennessee Judge of the Year in 1997 by the American Board of Trial Advocates, and he was selected by the Judicial Selection Committee as one of three applicants to be recommended to the governor for appointment to the Tennessee Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, he also contributed his time and energies to numerous civic-minded organizations and endeavors, serving as past president of the Livingston-Overton County Chamber of Commerce, member of the Overton County Board of Education, member of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity, coach for several Overton County minor league, little league, and Babe Ruth baseball teams, and an esteemed Alderman for the Town of Livingston; and

WHEREAS, he is a devout and active member of First Christian Church, which he serves faithfully as a Sunday school teacher and Bible study leader; and

WHEREAS, all of his accomplishments aside, he is most appreciative of the love he has shared with his wife, Delores Frasier Turnbull, their three children, and their eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Judge Turnbull exemplifies the allegiance to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Judge John A. Turnbull our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from his voluminous duties on the Circuit Court of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, applaud his years of dedicated public service and wise counsel, and wish him every continued success 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.