

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 588

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gladys C. Best upon receiving the Republican of the Year Award.

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, always evincing the greatest integrity and probity in each of her chosen endeavors, Gladys C. Best is one such laudable individual who recently received the Republican of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, born on September 15th in Dayton, Tennessee, Ms. Best, along with her five siblings, was taught the timeless lessons of hard work and service to others by her beloved parents, Fred and Beulah Best; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Best is the progeny of several prominent, pioneering families of Rhea County; her great-great-grandmother, Mary Morgan, settled historic Morgantown and Morgan Springs in the early 1800s, and around 1920, her great-grandfather, David Best, wisely decided to make Tennessee and Rhea County his home when he first came to the region with the Dayton and Iron Company; and

WHEREAS, a diligent student with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Ms. Best attended Morgantown Elementary School and, because of her natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, earned her diploma from Rhea Central High School; and

WHEREAS, after rendering sterling service for Cary-West Firestone in Dayton for a number of years, Gladys Best served with acumen and alacrity as a Rhea County Courthouse Recorder, in which position she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, having displayed an outstanding work ethic and unwavering commitment to excellence, Ms. Best was elected the Rhea County Register of Deeds, and for the past half a century, she has masterfully executed each of her duties; and

WHEREAS, the first Republican to serve the good people of Rhea County in one capacity for five decades, Gladys Best has ushered in a host of positive changes throughout her illustrious tenure, including installing a secure, state-of-the-art vault in order to protect essential papers and deeds before they can be transported to the Tennessee State Archives; and

WHEREAS, blessed with a heart of gold, Ms. Best is known as a friend to all, providing each customer with courteous, expeditious service, regardless of age, race, or political affiliation, and she has worked assiduously to instill those same values into each and every one of her clerks; and

WHEREAS, a highly influential figure in the party of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan, Ms. Best has devoted countless hours to advancing the Grand Old Party's noble ideals; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Best has offered invaluable support to the Rhea County Republican Party throughout the years, diligently working to elect common sense conservatives who will uphold America's founding principles, expertly advocating for the opening of the new Republican Headquarters, and even personally providing critical equipment for the additional offices; and

WHEREAS, a steadfast servant of the Almighty, Ms. Best is known for her solid Christian belief and servant spirit at the Vine Grove Methodist Church, where she faithfully serves her Lord as not only a devout member, but also as the congregation's treasurer; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished athlete with a lifelong passion for sports, Ms. Best is an avid bowler and a softball enthusiast who boasts thirteen bowling trophies, twelve softball accolades and the rare distinction of having played an invaluable role on the 1972 softball championship team; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Best is also a dedicated civic leader who has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through her work with numerous charitable

organizations, including lending her time and tremendous talents at the Rhea County Hospital and the Rhea Medical Center in Dayton as a charter member of the "Gray Ladies;" and

WHEREAS, Ms. Best is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized for being the only person in Rhea County history to serve in an elected position for fifty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Gladys C. Best upon receiving the Republican of the Year Award, thank her for all she has done to improve the lives of her fellow citizens, and wish her all the best in her 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.