

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 697

By Hemmer

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Phil Williams on his receipt of the 2023 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor a legendary journalist who has performed with uncommon dedication and enthusiasm throughout his entire career, winning acclaim at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, such an esteemed individual is chief investigative reporter Phil Williams of NewsChannel 5 (WTVF) in Nashville, who has been awarded the prestigious 2023 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism; and

WHEREAS, the John Chancellor Award is presented annually to a journalist for their cumulative accomplishments and honors the legacy of pioneering television correspondent and longtime NBC News anchor John Chancellor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was chosen for this honor by a committee of eight distinguished journalists and received the award and a \$25,000 honorarium at a special ceremony held at Columbia Journalism School on November 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the first local broadcaster to receive the John Chancellor Award, Mr. Williams has been renowned for his investigative journalism at both the local and state level for more than three decades and was recently lauded by national broadcaster John Oliver as "Nashville's Nosiest" reporter; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Phil Williams graduated with honors from Middle Tennessee State University and began his career as a print reporter, receiving recognition for his exceptional work when he was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1990; and

WHEREAS, moving to television in 1992, Mr. Williams was named the chief investigative reporter for NewsChannel 5 in Nashville in 1998 and has since compiled an unrivaled body of work, setting a standard for serious investigative journalism and making a difference in his community; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers at the international level, he has served as a member of the national board of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), a nonprofit organization that trains investigative and watchdog journalists around the globe; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Phil Williams has received four duPont-Columbia Awards, three Peabody Awards, the Toner Prize for Political Reporting, numerous National Headliner Awards, the Hillman Prize, the George Polk Award for TV Reporting, the Scripps-Howard Award, the IRE Medal, a national Emmy Award, and numerous regional Emmy Awards; and

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

WHEREAS, in his every endeavor, Phil Williams has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the worthy approbation of the general public; 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 honor and commend Phil Williams upon his receipt of the 2023 John Chancellor Award, which rightfully acknowledges his exemplary dedication to journalistic excellence throughout his extraordinary career.

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.