

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 735

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor Ed Cromer on an outstanding career in journalism.

WHEREAS, Ed Cromer, an astute and observant journalist who began covering Capitol Hill in the 1970s, has taken a much-deserved retirement after serving twenty years as the editor of *The Tennessee Journal*; and

WHEREAS, founded by the late M. Lee Smith in 1975 as "an insider's newsletter on Tennessee government, politics and business," *The Tennessee Journal* expanded its gravitas and readership during Mr. Cromer's tenure, which began in 1997; and

WHEREAS, now a must-read for all interested in the inner workings of Capitol Hill, *The Tennessee Journal* became an influential publication through a small, but important, readership who turned weekly to Mr. Cromer's meticulously researched and well-written summaries of Tennessee politics and state government; and

WHEREAS, always accurate and cohesive in explaining complex issues, Mr. Cromer's work is notable for his encyclopedic knowledge of a wide range of topics, from arcane state policy to hardball politics; and

WHEREAS, a gifted and witty writer who established the gold standard for political journalism, Ed Cromer made *The Tennessee Journal* an indispensable part of life on Capitol Hill during his tenure with the publication, and his institutional knowledge and great insight will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, a 1974 graduate of Vanderbilt University, Ed Cromer began his remarkable career in journalism with the *Tullahoma News*, *The Herald-Chronicle* in Winchester, and the *Williamson Leader* in Franklin before joining *The Tennessean* in 1977; there he covered a

variety of news topics until being assigned full time to the government and politics beat in 1982;
and

WHEREAS, in 1986 he left *The Tennessean* to serve as communications director for Winfield Dunn's gubernatorial campaign; afterward, Ed Cromer began reporting for the *Nashville Banner*, for which he mostly covered politics and state government but also worked stints as an editorial writer and editor of political and governmental reporting by others; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Ed Cromer began his illustrious tenure as editor of *The Tennessee Journal*, and twenty years later, his retirement has occasioned accolades from the elite of Capitol Hill, from Governor Bill Haslam to the former Dean of the Press Corps, Tom Humphrey;
and

WHEREAS, during his forty-plus years as a journalist, Ed Cromer earned the respect of his colleagues for his meticulous, informative style and the admiration of insiders and the reading public alike for his insight into Tennessee's political world; 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 honor Ed Cromer on an outstanding career in journalism on the occasion of his retirement, pay tribute to his exemplary tenure as editor of *The Tennessee Journal*, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness 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.