

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 761

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate Joseph Edward Gryder, Rhea County Republican of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Joseph Edward Gryder, who was recently named the 2018 Rhea County Republican of the Year, a most befitting honor for his tireless service to the Republican Party in Rhea County; and

WHEREAS, Joe Gryder was born on April 28, 1945, in Honolulu, Hawaii, where his father was stationed as a civilian employee of the United States Navy; the Gryder family returned to East Tennessee at the end of the war, and it was there that Joe Gryder grew up, between Red Bank and Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Mr. Gryder moved with his family to South Florida, where he graduated from Southwest Miami High School in 1963; he returned to Tennessee to attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT), where he was enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, and graduated in 1969; and

WHEREAS, that same year, on August 31, Joe Gryder married Elizabeth Chilton of Oak Ridge, whom he had met while attending UT; together they have two children, Lorilei and Joseph Emmett, and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Joe Gryder was commissioned a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army in December 1969 and continued his schooling with the Army, becoming a helicopter pilot; after receiving his flight wings in January 1970, he served in Vietnam from April 1970 to April 1971 and remained on active duty until April 1972; and

WHEREAS, in July 1972, Mr. Gryder began his career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), concurrently continuing his military career as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve; after serving thirty-three years and eight months with the LAPD, he retired on March 5, 2005, as a PIII+1, and he also retired from the Army, with twenty-three years of service and the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Joe and Elizabeth Gryder returned to East Tennessee, settling in Spring City before moving to Dayton Mountain, and became actively involved with the Rhea County Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Rhea County Republican Party, Mr. Gryder has served as Sergeant of Arms for eight years and as the logist/planner of the Reagan Day dinner for five years; and

WHEREAS, he is also an active community volunteer, serving with the Sherriff's Department to assist with the Senior Citizen Awareness Network and Homeland Security; he is vice president of the Rhea County Veterans' Coordinating Committee, serves on the Rhea Fair Committee, volunteers in the Rhea Election Office, and is an active member of American Legion Post 100; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and the Republican Party have been fortunate to have enjoyed the services of this devoted individual, and it is fitting that he be recognized for his stalwart contributions to this great State; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body find it appropriate to honor and commend Joe Gryder for his many contributions to the people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to public service, and his astute leadership; 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 commend and congratulate Joseph Edward Gryder upon being named the 2018 Rhea County Republican of the Year, thank him for his dedication and service

to the Republican Party, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success 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.