

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 773

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to congratulate 2014 SIR Award winner John N. Lee and recognize the 100th anniversary of his company, Rock City Construction Co., Inc.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize Tennessee's outstanding citizens whose professional endeavors have brought them honor and yielded great prosperity for this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is John N. Lee, who is the third-generation president of the prestigious Tennessee corporation, Rock City Construction Co., Inc. and the recipient of the 2014 SIR Award, a lifetime achievement award for exhibiting Skill, Integrity and Responsibility, presented by the Associated General Contractors of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this award has been conferred upon for this gentleman at a most appropriate time, for it recognizes John Lee's living legacy in Tennessee's construction business in the very year that his company celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding. This is surely a time when fond remembrances of the very broad shoulders of both his father and grandfather are poignant, as there upon he has stood and continues standing strong at the helm of the mature, well-seasoned prestigious company that Rock City has become; and

WHEREAS, Rock City was founded in 1913 by John Lee's grandfather, J.W.N. "Jack" Lee and business partners, G. B. Howard and H. S. Sumner; within a decade, Jack Lee took full ownership of Rock City, as his founding partners each pursued their own construction businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, the year in which the State of Tennessee began issuing contractor licenses, Rock City received the second such license, which the company still holds to this day; this makes Rock City's contracting license the oldest license still in use in the State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee was joined by his son and John's father, J.W.N. "Little Jack" Lee, III, in the family business when the latter was honorably discharged from the Army at the close of World War II; and

WHEREAS, during those years, the Lees' stature in the construction industry grew, and their work literally sculpted the skyline of the city of Nashville and shaped the landscape of communities and locales well beyond Tennessee; churches, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and eldercare facilities, industrial plants, and shopping centers bore Rock City's trademark quality. Truly, it would be difficult to throw a stone in Middle Tennessee without hitting a building Rock City has worked on; and

WHEREAS, under each successive company leader, the State's oldest construction company has deftly worked to both construct and preserve the State's historic structures; the Tennessee Supreme Court Building, major renovations of the State Capitol, multiple military contract projects in Oak Ridge, Paris, and Tullahoma, and many buildings found on the campuses of Vanderbilt and Fisk universities and Scarritt College are but a few Rock City projects that were completed by the mid-twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, John Lee went on the payroll at Rock City as a laborer and later as an apprentice carpenter. Following attainment of his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1974, he filled the role of project manager; in 1978, he became licensed as a professional engineer; and in 1985, he became the company's president; and

WHEREAS, John Lee stands true to the rock-solid foundation of Rock City integrity that his forefathers both intended and caused. Now, as a 47-year veteran contractor, he has rightly earned high acclaim within the ranks of his industry because of his impeccable character, his forthright and fair business practices, his unswerving concern for employee well-being and job-site safety, and Rock City's rich history of excellent workmanship and construction quality; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body finds it timely and appropriate to recognize and applaud the award-winning professional success of John N. Lee and give homage to the prosperous and historically relevant corporation that his forefathers founded and he now leads; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate John N. Lee, President of Rock City Construction Co., Inc., upon his receipt of the Associated General Contractors of Tennessee's 2014 SIR Award for lifetime achievement and extend our best wishes to him for even greater success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize Mr. Lee's company, Rock City Construction Co., Inc., on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding, thank the entire corporation for the positive impact it has on historical architecture in Tennessee and the economic prosperity it garners for the State, and extend our best wishes to all parties for every future success to be fully realized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.