

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 815

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate The Honorable Christie Mahn Sell upon being named a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association in Tennessee.

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

WHEREAS, The Honorable Christie Mahn Sell, Hamilton County General Sessions Court Division I Judge, will be recognized as a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association at the organization's 29th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon on April 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious event honors a number of women who have distinguished themselves through their professional, civic, and volunteer service; the event also benefits the important work of the American Lung Association in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished honoree this year, Judge Sell is a servant leader whose mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of the people she encounters, both personally and professionally, and she prides herself on differentiating her time among family, career, and community, so she may maximize her impact in all of her endeavors; and

WHEREAS, at age fourteen, Judge Sell initiated a lifetime of giving and service at a Chattanooga area children's shelter and at the Orange Grove Center; as a high school student, she succeeded in obtaining a traffic light at her school following another student's tragic accident; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sell pursued her education and entered the profession of law; as a barrister, Judge Sell became the second woman partner at her large law firm, but she is

perhaps most proud of her election as the first woman judge in Hamilton County General Sessions Court history, which occurred in 2006; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her most important role as mother, Judge Sell has been an adjunct professor, President of the Young Lawyers, and served on many different boards in her community; and

WHEREAS, the judge greatly enjoys hosting students in court and has donated her time to many activities that include starting and coaching a cross-country team at her children's school, coaching a new mock trial team, and chairing events for the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sell is a special champion for addressing the ills of domestic violence, most especially as she pioneered the development of the specialized Domestic Violence Court in Hamilton County, and is extensively involved with the pursuit of development of a Family Justice Center in her community; and

WHEREAS, because of her integrity, high personal and professional ethics, and outstanding contributions to the legal profession and public good, Judge Sell was elected a Chattanooga Bar Association Fellow in 2013 and a Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow this year; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Judge Sell received an Outstanding Judicial Services Award and the Leadership Award from the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Judge Sell is a highly accomplished professional; however, she is perhaps most proud of the marital bliss she shares with her husband, Kurt Faires, and the love and joy brought to her by their teenage children, Samantha and Thomas, and is grateful for her extended family that includes her mother, Kay Mahn, and her grandmother, Helen Mahn; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Judge Christie Sell takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Judge Sell, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; 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 hereby recognize and congratulate The Honorable Christie Mahn Sell upon being chosen as a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association in Tennessee, thank her for all she has done to make Chattanooga and this State a better place to live and work, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

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