

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 940

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor Motohiko Kato, Consulate-General of Japan, and welcome him to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pleasure in warmly welcoming a gentleman who works with purpose and conviction to facilitate economic and cultural exchange between two great nations, Japan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, this gentleman is Motohiko Kato, who serves with distinction as Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville since September 2012, Motohiko Kato has jurisdiction over five states in the South, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, an area in which approximately ten thousand Japanese reside, and in which there are as many as 370 Japanese companies operating; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in Nashville, Motohiko Kato has improved consular related services while maintaining his government's commitment to assisting Japanese companies by hosting business seminars and many other relevant events; and

WHEREAS, he has worked to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations and maintain the close friendship between Japan and the United States, especially in the South; and

WHEREAS, a seasoned diplomat, Motohiko Kato entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982; his overseas assignments include Japanese embassies in Singapore and Iran and the Japanese Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris; and

WHEREAS, Motohiko Kato next served as Director of the Nuclear Energy Division and Director of the Second International Organization Division, in which position he was engaged with economic diplomacy and international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy; and

WHEREAS, he was posted to the Japanese Embassy in Afghanistan as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2004-2006 and then served as the Director of the International Cooperation Department of the National Institute for Research Advancement, a Japanese think-tank; and

WHEREAS, Motohiko Kato was the Minister and Head of Chancery at the Japanese Embassy in the U.S. from 2007-2010 and then served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Consul-General at the Japanese Embassy in the Republic of the Philippines before assuming his current position in September 2012; and

WHEREAS, Motohiko Kato plays a vital role in facilitating the exchange of commerce and culture between Japan and Tennessee, and he should be specially recognized; 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 honor Motohiko Kato, Consulate-General of Japan, welcome him to the General Assembly and the House Chambers, and extend to him our sincere gratitude for his dedication and professionalism as Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.

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