

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 993

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gera Summerford for her meritorious service as President of the Tennessee Education Association.

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

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Gera Summerford, who has served as President of the Tennessee Education Association (TEA) since 2010; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as President of the Tennessee Education Association, Ms. Summerford has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, a math teacher on leave from Gatlinburg-Pittman High School while serving as President of TEA, Ms. Summerford has taught in Sevier County since 1982 and began her teaching career in Texas after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and German from Baylor University; and

WHEREAS, after relocating to Tennessee, Gera Summerford obtained her master's degree from the University of Tennessee and completed her Education Specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, a longtime advocate for teachers and public education, Ms. Summerford served for many years as a local teacher association leader in Sevier County and was first elected to the TEA Board of Directors in 2003; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by her peers and colleagues, Gera Summerford rendered sterling service as Vice-President of TEA from 2006 to 2010 and was elected President of TEA by her fellow members in June 2010; and

WHEREAS, Gera Summerford epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Summerford is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Dale Gilmore, a retired teacher and local association leader; and they are the proud parents of two children, son Birkin Gilmore, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and daughter Caryce Gilmore, a first-year kindergarten teacher in Robertson County; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable tenure as President of TEA, Gera Summerford demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her membership and fellow teachers; 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 honor and commend Gera Summerford for her meritorious service as President of the Tennessee Education Association and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

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