

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1019

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Scott Finney for his thirty years of dedicated service to The Arc Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Scott Finney has been the face of The Arc Tennessee for the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Finney has been tireless in setting an example for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to be empowered and more self-sufficient, helping the public to learn more about people with I/DD and their capabilities; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Tennessee from Illinois in 1984, he first worked at New Horizons in a sheltered workshop; he also had work experience at the Sheraton Music City Hotel, where he received the Volunteer Employee of the Year Award, a community employment award, in 1987; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Scott Finney began his career with The Arc Tennessee as the Assistant Director of Public Awareness and Information and since that time has held various positions with a variety of responsibilities, including membership recruitment, public speaking, self-advocacy training, administrative office work, fundraising, and serving as historian; and

WHEREAS, the first voice you hear when you call The Arc Tennessee is the warm, friendly, and helpful voice of Mr. Finney; and

WHEREAS, the most important part of Scott Finney's work has been to get the word out about how much people with or without I/DD can do, including taking an active part in the campaign to end the use of the "R" word; and

WHEREAS, he has spoken to many groups across the State about his life and the roll The Arc Tennessee has played in it; and

WHEREAS, Scott Finney has shared his story as a keynote speaker at The Arc of the United States National Convention and at The Arc West Virginia State Convention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Finney has been recognized for his advocacy work by the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, which presented him with the Jo Andrews Award in 2002, and by The Arc Tennessee, when it bestowed him with its most prestigious honor, the Roger Blue Memorial Award, in 2013; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong dream of living independently was recently realized, when he moved into his own apartment with support from the Employment and Community First CHOICES program; and

WHEREAS, Scott Finney has shown that with support of friends and family, he can do anything; 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 honor and commend Scott Finney for his thirty years of dedicated service with The Arc Tennessee and extend to him much continued success in all 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.