

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1047

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Honorable Telford Earl Forgety, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as Chancery Court Judge of the 4th and 5th Judicial Districts of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Telford Earl Forgety, Jr., is one such noteworthy jurist, who has served the good people of Blount, Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier counties and the State of Tennessee with distinction since his appointment as Chancery Court Judge of the 4th and 5th Judicial Districts in October 1997; and

WHEREAS, having distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order throughout his exemplary twenty-five-year tenure on the bench, Chancellor Forgety will be taking his well-earned retirement at the conclusion of his current term on August 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Telford E. Forgety was born on July 10, 1949, in Dandridge, the middle child of five born to Telford E. "T." Forgety, Sr., and Gladys Price Forgety; and

WHEREAS, the son of an Air Force Master Sergeant and a public school teacher, Chancellor Forgety lived with his family in several states as well as in Ankara, Turkey, as a child; in 1957, the Forgetys returned home to their family farm in the Piney Community of Strawberry Plains; and

WHEREAS, Telford E. Forgety graduated from Carter High School in 1967 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in History with *magna cum laude* honors from Carson-Newman College in 1972; and

WHEREAS, he received a Juris Doctor degree in 1975 from Memphis State University, where he ranked sixth in a class of 147 students and served on the Law Review and was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Forgety began his estimable legal career in October 1975 as a law clerk for Judge James Parrott of the Tennessee Court of Appeals; in July 1976, he left that position and entered private practice with the law firm of Rainwater, Forgety and Jones in Dandridge; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-one years of private practice, Chancellor Forgety tried hundreds of cases at all levels and appeared before the Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, and Supreme Court some thirty times; and

WHEREAS, he also served as county attorney for Jefferson County and as counsel for the Jefferson County School Board, Jefferson County Bank, First Tennessee Bank, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, and State Farm Insurance, among a number of other entities and many private individuals; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he was selected as one of three candidates certified for appointment by Governor Ned Ray McWherter as a judge for the Eastern Section, State Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, in October 1997, Telford E. Forgety was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist to serve as Chancellor of the 4th and 5th Judicial Districts, a position to which he was elected by popular vote in 1998 and subsequently reelected without opposition in 2006 and again in 2014; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of his profession, Chancellor Forgety served two terms as president of the Tennessee Trial Judges Association and has held multiple offices in the Tennessee Judicial Conference; he also served on the Appellate Court Evaluation Committee in 2003 and on the Tennessee Supreme Court's Workers' Compensation Panel; and

WHEREAS, Telford E. Forgety is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and of the Blount, Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Sevier County Bar Associations, and he is a frequent presenter at the Tennessee Judicial Conference, Tennessee Bar Association, and at local bar association meetings and continuing legal education programs; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Chancellor Forgety is most appreciative of the love and support of his wife of forty-four years, Vickie Amelia French; and their sons,

Telford Earl "Trey" (Allen) Forgety III and William Shea (Chelsea) Forgety, both of whom are attorneys; and their grandchildren, Parker Lonon, Cecilia Anne Forgety, and Liam Marshall Forgety; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Forgety exemplifies the commitment to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Telford E. Forgety has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Chancellor Telford Earl Forgety, Jr., our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applauding his years of dedicated public service as Chancery Court Judge of the 4th and 5th Judicial Districts of the State of Tennessee and wishing him every continued success in 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.