

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1096

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Rear Admiral Vinson E. Smith, USN (Retired), Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Rear Admiral Vinson E. Smith, USN (Retired), who is being honored at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, a native of Stonewall, Rear Admiral Vinson E. Smith enjoyed a highly decorated thirty-two-year career in the United States Navy, retiring from active duty on December 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his military excellence, Rear Admiral Smith received a number of honors and awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Republic of Argentina Distinguished Service Navy Cross, and numerous service ribbons; and

WHEREAS, committed to serving his community, Rear Admiral Vinson Smith worked for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis from October 2007 until October 2021, when he took his second retirement, seeing duty as a club director and vice president of operations and helping over 32,000 children achieve academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Smith rendered sterling service as a member of the University Foundation Board of Trustees for Tennessee Technological University from 2004 to 2016 and was inducted into the institution's Army ROTC Hall of Fame in 2003 and awarded the school's University Alumni Association Award; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Olive Branch from 2006 to 2013, where he served as president from 2009 to 2011; he was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2006-2007 and recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow in 2011; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 recipient of the United States Presidential Volunteer Service Bronze Award, Rear Admiral Smith was inducted into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tennessee Hall of Fame in September 2017; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Rear Admiral Vinson Smith enjoys the love and support of his wife, Sandra, and their four children and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Rear Admiral Smith has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; 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 congratulate Rear Admiral Vinson E. Smith, USN (Retired), upon his recognition at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our best wishes for 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.