

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1109

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to recognize Elaine Gordon on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Elaine Gordon, who served the American Cancer Society with distinction for twenty-eight years, and will retire from the organization as the Senior Director of Regional Major Gifts; and

WHEREAS, born in Clarksville, Ms. Gordon is the beloved daughter of former State Representative Bob Patton and Janice Patton Martin; she grew up in Johnson City, where she graduated from University High School; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon graduated *cum laude* from East Tennessee State University with a degree in communications; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Ms. Gordon began her distinguished career with the American Cancer Society as a district representative in the organization's Kentucky Division, collaborating with volunteers to implement fundraising and cancer control programs; she was then appointed Area Director in which position she managed daily operations and area field staff while raising funds and carrying out cancer control initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Elaine Gordon became the Field Services and Income Development Director for the Kentucky Division, establishing a variety of fundraising programs, including the first state "Golf Pass" program, the first Galas in Louisville and northern Kentucky, and Relay for Life across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, she was responsible for increasing funds from \$1.8 million in 1990 to \$4.2 million in 1997 and briefly served as the North Dakota interim Executive Vice President through a pilot leadership initiative; and

WHEREAS, from 1997-2000, Ms. Gordon served as the Regional Vice President of the Mid-South Division based in Louisville, Kentucky, managing daily operations and implementing projects for a seventy-two county territory in Kentucky and southern Indiana; and

WHEREAS, she has been recognized in the Mid-South Division for her success in fundraising, where she increased contributions from \$4.4 million in 1998 to \$6.4 million in 2000 and consistently exceeded division fundraising goals; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Elaine Gordon returned to Tennessee to serve as the Regional Vice President of the Mid-South Division based in Nashville, managing daily operations and implementing projects for a sixty-county territory; and

WHEREAS, she launched Nashville's first Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event that now generates \$1 million in contributions, raising money for breast cancer awareness and research; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon served as the State Vice President of the Mid-South Division from 2002-2010, launching CEOs Against Cancer in Tennessee, which unites the world's top companies with the American Cancer Society to change the course of cancer; and

WHEREAS, as Vice President for Priority Initiatives' Mid-South Division from 2010-2013, she directed CEOs Against Cancer Tennessee Chapter, recruiting, managing, and cultivating Fortune 1000 companies and leaders to engage in the organizational mission of the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, she leveraged her professional stature and relationship to implement health initiatives, including establishing Nashville's first patient lodging program, advocating the full funding of Tennessee's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program, and creating a comprehensive smoking cessation program for TennCare patients; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her professional achievements, Elaine Gordon is a published writer who has twice been recognized with honorable mention at the national Writer's Digest competition; and

WHEREAS, after her retirement, Ms. Gordon plans to further her writing, expand her interests, and enjoy her family farm in Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Elaine Gordon has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and a grateful public; 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 recognize Elaine Gordon for her dedicated service and passionate commitment to the fight against cancer and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her 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.