

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1140

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor Court of Appeals Judge Richard H. Dinkins on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing one of the most gifted jurists this State has ever produced, namely Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Richard H. Dinkins of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Judge Dinkins is taking a much-deserved retirement after sixteen years of dedicated and insightful service on the Court of Appeals, having decided not to seek retention in the upcoming election; and

WHEREAS, during his third year of law school at Vanderbilt University, Judge Dinkins clerked for Tennessee Senator Avon N. Williams, Jr., a fellow civil rights activist, and became involved in Nashville's long-running desegregation case; as a lawyer with the firm, he successfully represented the plaintiffs in the case, securing a victory that profoundly impacted Nashville's public schools; and

WHEREAS, he joined Senator Avon Williams as a partner in the firm of Williams and Dinkins from 1981 to 1999 and was a partner in the firm of Dodson, Parker, Dinkins and Behm from 1999 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2003, Judge Dinkins was appointed Chancellor for Part IV of the Davidson County Chancery Court; he was subsequently elected to the bench in May 2004 and reelected in August 2006; and

WHEREAS, after being considered for vacancies on the Tennessee Supreme Court, Richard H. Dinkins was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section, by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2008; and

WHEREAS, passionate about civil rights for all people, Judge Dinkins has worked to ensure equality under the law as a member of the Napier-Looby Bar Association, serving on its Board of Directors from 1981 to 1983, as its Vice President in 1984, and its President in 1985, and as a cooperating attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Educational Fund; and

WHEREAS, he has given back to the legal profession as a member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association's Board of Governors; a member of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Bar Association; a member of the Commercial Law Section of the National Bar Association; and a Barrister with the Harry Phillips Inn of Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Dinkins has been honored as a Master of the Harry Phillips Inn of Court and a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Richard H. Dinkins has also received the prestigious Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award from the Nashville Public Education Foundation; the award recognized Judge Dinkins's "fierce advocacy for civil rights in public education" and his "exemplary commitment to service" and accurately described him as "a pillar of civic leadership in Nashville"; and

WHEREAS, Richard H. Dinkins received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Denison University and his Juris Doctor degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure on the bench, Judge Dinkins has exhibited the greatest integrity and a strong commitment to justice, and he is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; 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 it is a pleasure and a privilege for this body to honor Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Richard H. Dinkins on the occasion of his retirement after sixteen years on the

appellate bench. We extend to him our gratitude for a difficult job well done and our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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.