

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1170

By Womick

A RESOLUTION to honor District Attorney General William C. Whitesell, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those public servants who have performed with uncommon devotion and probity throughout their careers as public servants; and

WHEREAS, William C. "Bill" Whitesell, Jr. is one such estimable citizen who has served with distinction as District Attorney General for the 16th Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, which encompasses Rutherford and Cannon Counties; and

WHEREAS, General Whitesell has chosen not to seek re-election to his position in the upcoming 2014 election and will, instead, retire from public office in August of this year; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitesell was born on August 12, 1949, in Marshall County; he graduated from Marshall County Senior High School in 1967 and matriculated to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He then earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at Memphis State University School of Law in 1975 and was licensed to practice law in Tennessee that same year; and

WHEREAS, General Whitesell has been the chief prosecutor for the citizens of the 16th Judicial District since 1995, and during his tenure in office, that geographic area has experienced record-setting population growth, tremendous industrial development, and the myriad consequences of rapid urbanization which can have, either singularly or collectively, significant influence on crime trends and the court systems; and

WHEREAS, when he came to office, General Whitesell was well-versed in the operations of the 16th district's office, as he had served as an Assistant District Attorney General

since 1980. He also spent years practicing law privately before entering the public service realm; and

WHEREAS, General Whitesell is a member of both the Rutherford County and Cannon County Bar Associations, as well as the Tennessee Bar Association and the National District Attorneys Association. He also stood as president of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, held memberships on the Tennessee Sex Offender Treatment/Monitoring Board and the Tennessee Supreme Court Judicial Evaluation Committee, and served as a board member of the Rutherford County Child Advocacy Center, which he also served as president; and

WHEREAS, General Whitesell has been an ardent supporter of community-based initiatives to reduce crime and he has given ample time to the advancement of crime prevention and interdiction knowledge among public servants in city, county, and state law enforcement agencies and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, his stellar legal and public safety career notwithstanding, Bill Whitesell is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Lucy Womack Whitesell; their son, Aaron; their daughter, Emily, and her spouse, Chad Taylor; and their three grandsons, Owen and twins, Bennett and Weston; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitesell is a faithful member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and currently serves on the Vestry; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys spending time at his cabin at the lake and on his houseboat, and he also takes enjoyment in collecting and trading antique fishing lures; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, General Bill Whitesell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bench and the bar and a grateful public, and it is fitting that he be recognized and honored accordingly at this time; 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 hereby recognize and honor William C. "Bill" Whitesell, Jr., District

Attorney General, 16th Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, on the occasion of his retirement from public office, thank him for his unwavering service to the citizens of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for success in all of 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.