

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1222

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize Vincent W. Durnan, Jr., Director of University School of Nashville, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Vincent W. Durnan, Jr., is one such estimable individual, who, having served with distinction since 2000 as the Director of University School of Nashville, is taking his much-deserved retirement this year; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-two years of exemplary service, Vince Durnan has the distinction of being the longest-serving director in Peabody Demonstration School/University School of Nashville (USN) history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durnan grew up in the Northeast Kingdom region of Vermont and attended the high school where his father served as headmaster; he is a 1983 graduate of Williams College and holds an M.Ed. degree from Harvard University and an Ed.D. degree in education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, which he earned while working at USN; and

WHEREAS, Vince Durnan's experience prior to assuming the role of director at USN includes serving variably as a teacher, coach, dorm head, and administrator at Harvard School in Los Angeles, California, Hawaii Prep on the Big Island of Hawaii, Suffield Academy in Connecticut, and Kingswood-Oxford School in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, while serving at these schools, he was also a reader and consultant for the College Board's Advanced Placement Economics Program; and

WHEREAS, Director Durnan took over the helm at USN in July 2000; under his leadership, USN's endowment has grown from \$600,000 to \$37 million, thus ensuring the continued financial health of the institution; similarly, USN's financial aid budget has increased from \$679,000 to \$3.9 million, making the school more accessible to families across Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, also during his tenure, USN developed and grew partnerships with the Edgehill Community, through the Horizons program, and Metro Nashville Public Schools, Vanderbilt University, Fisk University, and Tennessee State University, among others; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as director, Vince Durnan taught Contemporary Civics at USN, challenging upperclassmen to think critically about current events and connecting them with thought leaders, decision makers, newsmakers, and politicians to ask questions about matters impacting the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his time as director, he also served as a lecturer and consultant for the Peabody College Independent School Leadership Master's Program; and

WHEREAS, Vince Durnan has served the city through his board membership with diverse organizations, including Oasis Center, Centerstone, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Purpose Prep, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, Malone Online Schools, Heads Collegiate Forum (formerly Country Day School Headmasters Association), Fort Negley Advisory Committee, and Independent School Association of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durnan is a proud alumnus of Leadership Nashville and regularly chairs the organization's Education Day; he is also the proud father of three USN alumnae; and

WHEREAS, Vince Durnan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Durnan has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of colleagues, students, and community stakeholders alike; 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 University School of Nashville Director Vincent W. Durnan, Jr., our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and 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.