

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1280

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Steve Smith, president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts and diligent service to their fellow citizens, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Steve Smith, 2021-2022 president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference (TDPDC), who has rendered sterling service during his presidential term; and

WHEREAS, as TDPDC president, Mr. Smith has been the principal executive officer for supervising and controlling the business and affairs of the Conference while also assisting the Conference in advising the General Assembly regarding legislation to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith has concurrently served as the district public defender for the 11th Judicial District, located in Hamilton County, and has served the citizens of that district with distinction since his election in 2014; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election, he served as Assistant District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District from 2006 to 2014; he was a partner in the Philyaw & Smith, PLLC, law firm in Chattanooga from 2003 to 2006, and prior to that, he served for two years as an associate with Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan, PLLC; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has conducted felony jury trials in Division I of Criminal Court and served as the lead prosecutor in Division II of General Sessions Court; he has defended clients

in all courts of the southeast Tennessee region, including Federal District Court, in cases involving personal injury, domestic issues, construction disputes, and estate planning; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in his field, Mr. Smith has served as a board member of the Tennessee Bar Association, secretary of the Chattanooga Bar Association, a barrister member of the Brock-Cooper Inns of Court, a member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and an adjunct professor at Bryan College; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith is also devoted to serving his community through his involvement with Family Promise of Greater Chattanooga and the Bachmann Community Center, both of which he has served as a board member, as well as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; he conducted summer studies in the Guanacaste Region of Costa Rica and the Basin and Range Province of the Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, he received his Juris Doctor from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis; he was a National Semi-Finalist at the Pace Environmental Moot Court and graduated in the top quarter of his class; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Smith for his dedication to serving the people of this State; 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 honor and commend Steve Smith, 2021-2022 president of the

Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, as his exemplary term comes to a close, extending our best wishes for his continued success.

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.