

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1378

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to recognize Hamilton County Mayor Jim M. Coppinger on the occasion of his retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Jim M. Coppinger is one such estimable person, who has served since 2011 as Mayor of Hamilton County, from which position he will retire at the conclusion of his current term in office; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Coppinger has provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on April 21, 1955, Jim Coppinger has built an incredible legacy of leadership, collaboration, and public service throughout his life, estimably serving as a Chattanooga firefighter before becoming Chief of the Chattanooga Fire Department and, upon retirement, continuing to serve the public as a Hamilton County Commissioner before becoming County Mayor in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Coppinger is widely known for his successful efforts to attract business to Hamilton County and for his sound approach to county finances, including the county's AAA bond rating and the area's lowest tax rate in sixty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate of public education, Mayor Coppinger has long emphasized the need to invest in education; in 2019, his initial budget proposal included a \$60 million increase in funding for the Hamilton County Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Schools Foundation recently recognized Mayor Coppinger for his tireless advocacy of students and teachers by presenting him with the Hero Award; and

WHEREAS, another of Mayor Coppinger's important contributions has been his program to protect children and nonsmokers from the harmful effects of second- and third-hand smoke; through his leadership, all eleven Hamilton County mayors came together to create the Mayors Smokefree Community Initiative, which aims to reduce tobacco use and exposure, one of the leading causes of preventable death in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his significant contributions on behalf of public health during his tenure as mayor, he was presented with the Tennessee Public Health Association's Partners and Leadership Individual Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure, Jim Coppinger has carried out his responsibilities as Hamilton County Mayor with diligence and integrity; his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate for the citizens of Hamilton County, Mayor Coppinger has compiled a singular record of success during his exemplary public service career, and he should be specially recognized; 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 hereby commend Jim M. Coppinger for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Hamilton County Mayor, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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.