

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to commend Suzette Graham, founder of Patriot Angels.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to those exemplary Tennesseans who work with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Suzette Graham, who founded Patriot Angels in 2012 in an effort to care for our nation's wartime heroes and their widows; and

WHEREAS, guided by her compassion and her desire to protect the vulnerable, Ms. Graham began Patriot Angels in the bonus room above her garage, watching her dream slowly take shape with a handful of family members by her side; and

WHEREAS, despite numerous obstacles along the way, she poured her heart into building Patriot Angels, growing it into a leading private company that assists with veterans' benefits; Patriot Angels now has more than 130 employees and is one of Hendersonville's top five employers; and

WHEREAS, Patriot Angels is more than simply a business—it is a lifeline to veterans and their families; through tireless advocacy and knowledge of navigating Veterans Affairs processes, Suzette Graham and her team have assisted nearly 21,000 veterans and their widows in obtaining the Aid and Attendance benefit provided by Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, this crucial support has alleviated the financial strain of long-term senior living care, allowing veterans to live their golden years with dignity and peace of mind; and

WHEREAS, the thread that has run through Ms. Graham's life is that of selfless, devoted service to vulnerable populations; as the former Mrs. Alaska, she was honored with the Heroism Award in her home state for her efforts to enact laws protecting children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, her passion for advocacy and justice has been the driving force behind Patriot Angels' mission to empower and uplift those who have sacrificed so much for our country; and

WHEREAS, Patriot Angels stands as a testament to Ms. Graham's unwavering dedication to serving the vulnerable and honoring our nation's heroes; her organization is a force in the senior living industry, enriching communities and ensuring veterans and their widows receive the care and support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Graham epitomizes the spirit and commitment to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and applaud Suzette Graham for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Suzette Graham for her outstanding service to our veterans and their widows through Patriot Angels, extending our gratitude for her passionate work and our best wishes for her 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.