

HOUSE RESOLUTION 177

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to honor James Wattenbarger on receiving the National Wild Turkey Federation's Overall Volunteer of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those exceptional Volunteers who have committed their time, talent, and resources to conserving our wildlife and its habitat and introducing neophytes to the joys of hunting and outdoor life; and

WHEREAS, a devoted member of Crossville's Plateau Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), James Wattenbarger is one such committed Volunteer; and

WHEREAS, a seven-year veteran of the Plateau Longbeards Chapter, Mr. Wattenbarger recently received the NWTF's Overall Volunteer Award for his hard work in strengthening the organization's new "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." Initiative; and

WHEREAS, through this national initiative, NWTF has committed to raising \$1.2 billion to conserve and enhance more than four million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create at least 1.5 million new hunters, and open access to 500,000 new acres for hunting, shooting, and outdoor enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wattenbarger is active in NWTF's three hunting heritage programs: JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, and Sportsmanship), Women in the Outdoors, and Wheelin' Sportsmen, all of which introduce new people to hunting and conservation; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as a committee member and hunting heritage coordinator for the Plateau Longbeards Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wattenbarger now pursues his special interest in introducing young people to the outdoors by serving as the state JAKES coordinator for Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during the past two years, he has assisted five NWTF chapters in starting JAKES programs and has helped increase membership statewide; and

WHEREAS, although he modestly describes this prestigious award as a "team effort," Mr. Wattenbarger's fellow NWTF members value his "complete commitment" and admire him as a problem solver who works tirelessly to involve more youth, women, and people with disabilities in NWTF's hunting heritage programs; and

WHEREAS, James Wattenbarger is a Tennessean who has distinguished himself as an exceptional Volunteer, and he should be recognized for his dedication to the National Wild Turkey Federation and its worthy mission of conserving upland wildlife habitat across North America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate James Wattenbarger on receiving the National Wild Turkey Federation's Overall Volunteer of the Year Award, commend his exemplary volunteerism in preserving wildlife habitat and creating new hunters, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.