

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor Vice Mayor John Kerley for his service to the citizens of Portland.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have devoted their lives to public service; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is John Kerley, who is retiring as the vice mayor of Portland, capping off an illustrious career of public service that has spanned more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, service above self is the common thread that runs through Mr. Kerley's storied career, which finds its beginning during the Vietnam War, when he joined the United States Navy and was assigned to the Brown Water Navy, which conducted missions on rivers and canals; and

WHEREAS, after returning to civilian life, John Kerley began his service to the citizens of Portland as an alderman for the city in May 1977; he served until May 1985, and during his tenure, he became involved with the early efforts of the waste water project in Portland and served for a time as vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kerley began his career in law enforcement with the Portland City Police Department, departing during his years on the Portland City Council and returning thereafter, becoming a full-time patrol officer and certified training officer before being promoted to assistant police chief; his notable service with the department included being its first DARE officer and helping initiate the original 911 program, which involved renaming streets; and

WHEREAS, such was his acumen and dedication that John Kerley was asked to join the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) in 1993; while there, he helped establish the Criminal

Investigation Division and the TBI's 10 Most Wanted list and advanced his skills to become certified as an expert forensic computer specialist; and

WHEREAS, as a forensic computer specialist, his input and expertise were highly valued; he thus was summoned to various places across the world to offer expert testimony and was involved in many high-profile cases over the years. In 1998, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a computer specialist assigned to the Nashville branch; and

WHEREAS, after the 9/11 attacks, John Kerley was called to New York City to assist in setting up a computer command center, which entailed the installation of both the network and 25,000 computers in thirty days inside a parking garage; and

WHEREAS, among his many assignments, Mr. Kerley was asked to take part in the posthumous FBI investigation of Osama bin Laden, for which he was involved in the analysis media associated with the investigation; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from law enforcement, John Kerley returned to Portland and, in November 2016, was again elected as an alderman, ultimately returning to his post as vice mayor; and

WHEREAS, during his second term of service with the city council, Mr. Kerley has accomplished a great deal, much of it focused on the preservation of Portland history; he worked with the city to provide a grant for seed money for the continuing renovation of The Temple Theatre and was instrumental in the city's acquisition of the Cold Springs School building, which serves as the home of various educational programs sponsored by the Highland Rim Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, one of his last acts as alderman and vice mayor was the passage of a resolution to turn the Moye-Green House into a museum of Portland history, an act that will certainly instill pride in current and future generations of Portland citizens and preserve the legacy of this important Tennessee city; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Mr. Kerley has enjoyed the love and companionship of his wife of more than forty-seven years, Beverly Edminson Kerley; together, the couple has one son, Beau (Lindsey) Kerley, and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Vice Mayor John Kerley has been a faithful, compassionate, and capable public servant for many years, and he is wholly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Portland Vice Mayor John Kerley on the occasion of his retirement, commend him for more than four decades of exceptional service to the citizens of Portland and the State of Tennessee, and extend our best wishes for much success and happiness 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.