

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., for his many contributions to higher education in the State of Tennessee and beyond.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those leaders in their field who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., of Nashville, a higher education professional who has, for nearly three decades, dedicated his career to serving Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, this year marks Dr. Claude Pressnell's twenty-fifth anniversary with the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association; he has been a vital part of the association these two and a half decades, serving as the association's president for the last twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pressnell obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwest Baptist University in 1985 and his Master of Arts degree from Wheaton College in 1987; then, in 1994, he earned his Doctor of Education in Leadership/Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University, where he received the Alfred Leland Crabb Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, a trusted voice in higher education, Dr. Claude Pressnell has served in U.S. Senate-appointed positions on the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance; and

WHEREAS, his expertise has taken him abroad, as well; in March 2005, he was the Higher Education Speaker Specialist on Accreditation/Institutional Quality for the U.S.

Department of State, serving Southeast Europe, and in the summer of that same year, he was a visiting professor at Prishtina Summer University in Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, he participated in the prestigious Fulbright Scholars Program as a specialist to the Maldives, advising the government there on the establishment of a progressive student financial aid scheme; he has also served as an educational consultant in Iraq, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Hungary, and Kazakhstan and stateside with the Family Research Council and Lee University; and

WHEREAS, his other leadership roles include serving as executive director of the Tennessee Foundation for Independent Colleges and vice president and founding executive director of the Focus on the Family Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claude Pressnell worked at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, from 1987 to 1990, serving as director of Admissions and rising through the ranks to become director of Student Development (dean of students) and, ultimately, senior director of Admissions and Student Development; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, he came on board at Belmont University, serving as director of Financial Assistance for one year before concurrently serving in this role and as an instructor in the university's School of Religion for the remainder of his tenure; in 1992, he was the acting dean of Admissions and Financial Aid; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pressnell is currently president of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, in which capacity he has served since 2000; in this role, he is the chief executive officer of the association, which includes thirty-five colleges and universities throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, he is also the founder and chief executive officer of the Tennessee Student Aid Alliance; since 2000, this alliance of business and education associations has been dedicated to providing Tennessee residents with access to the State's higher education

community, with a focus on deserving students with financial need, academically gifted students, and those preparing to become lower school teachers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claude Pressnell currently serves on the board of directors for the Council for Christian Colleges, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, and the Tennessee Campus Compact, as well as the board of advisors for the Tennessee State Board of Education, the Tennessee Institute for Public Health, and the Tennessee Hospital Association; and

WHEREAS, he is a member of the board of directors of the Coalition for College Cost Savings, of which he was the founding chair, and a member and former chair of the board of governors for the John Jay Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pressnell was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to serve on the Education Commission of the States, and Senator Lamar Alexander appointed him to serve on the National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity, which he currently serves as vice chair; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Claude Pressnell has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues and the communities, institutions, and students he has served; 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 extend to Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., our sincere gratitude for his many years of service to the citizens of this State, in particular his twenty-five years of astute service with the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, and wish him continued success in the years to come.

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.