

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 34

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to recognize Judge Daniel R. Swafford on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those jurists who evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge Daniel R. Swafford is one such noteworthy jurist who served the good people of Bradley County with distinction upon his election to Bradley County General Sessions/Juvenile Judge in 2006 and recently took his much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure on the bench, Judge Swafford distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Swafford received his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee in 1977, graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa; in 1988, he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law; and

WHEREAS, he answered his nation's call of duty and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1978 to 1981 and the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Navy from 1988 to 1991; he was awarded two Navy Commendations for his service; and

WHEREAS, before he was elected to the bench, Daniel Swafford served as an attorney in private practice and as an assistant district attorney for Bradley, Polk, and Hamilton counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Daniel R. Swafford was elected as Bradley County General Sessions/Juvenile Judge. His responsibilities included the juvenile delinquent court; family court; juvenile drug court; campus court; environmental court; mental health court; foster care review board; order of protection docket; civil court; dependence and neglect; and termination of parental rights; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Judge Swafford established the Juvenile Junior Master Gardeners Program, and he implemented the use of Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteers; he was also instrumental in establishing a full-time security officer stationed at the juvenile center; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, he was reelected as Bradley County General Sessions/Juvenile Judge, and in 2018, Judge Swafford implemented changes from the Juvenile Justice Reform Act into the Bradley County Juvenile Court dockets; in 2020, he helped Bradley County establish its first mental health court; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Judge Swafford was appointed by the Administrative Office of the Courts in 2009 to represent the Eastern Tennessee counties at the annual Mid-Winter Conference in 2009; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Daniel Swafford demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; 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 commend Judge Daniel R. Swafford on his exemplary tenure as Bradley County General Sessions/Juvenile Court Judge, applaud his commitment to justice and impartiality under the law, and extend our heartfelt 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.