

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Terry Denniston on the occasion of her retirement.

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

WHEREAS, Terry Denniston is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than thirty-four years at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and took her well-deserved retirement on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, for fourteen years, Ms. Denniston was the chief of staff, serving as a trusted confidante to the university's chancellor and as the first point of contact for community members; she was also a liaison and advisor with the Student Government Association, facilitating a healthy relationship between students and the chancellor's office; and

WHEREAS, one of Terry Denniston's many duties as chief of staff was to serve as the commencement coordinator; during her tenure, she directed thirty-six commencement ceremonies and witnessed almost 27,000 students receive their degrees from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, she also collaborated with the university's deans on various projects and programs, including serving on the Fall 2020 COVID-19 task force; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Denniston arrived at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1986 to accept the position of director of alumni affairs; for twenty years, she worked with alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the greater Chattanooga community. She relished the opportunities she had to interact with incoming students, sharing with them the university's history and the importance of being involved on campus and carrying on the school's traditions, which would connect them to current and future Mocs; and

WHEREAS, Terry Denniston holds a bachelor's degree in social work and psychology from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Denniston was honored to be chosen as a 2018 Woman of Distinction of Greater Chattanooga in recognition of her devotion to improving the quality of life for the members of her community and for her positive influence on Chattanooga women to effect change in the region; and

WHEREAS, Terry Denniston exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Denniston has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the university's administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni; 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 Terry Denniston our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her 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.