

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 47

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William H. Frist for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such praiseworthy person is William H. "Bill" Frist, who, through his exemplary work in the realms of medicine and public office, has established himself as a distinguished and accomplished citizen of this great State; and

WHEREAS, born on February 22, 1952, in Nashville, Senator Frist found within himself a natural passion to serve others, which led him to Princeton, from which he graduated in 1974 with a degree in health care policy and international relations from the Woodrow Wilson School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Frist continued his pursuit of knowledge at Harvard Medical School, where he earned his medical degree and graduated with honors in 1978; and

WHEREAS, he spent the following six years training to be a heart surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and Southampton General Hospital in England; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Dr. Frist began a fellowship at Stanford University, where he joined the team of pioneer transplant surgeon Dr. Norman Shumway; and

WHEREAS, after completing his Stanford fellowship, Dr. Frist returned to Nashville and, in 1986, assumed the prestigious role as director of Vanderbilt University Medical Center's heart and lung transplantation program, while also teaching classes and operating at the Nashville Veterans Administration Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 Bill Frist founded the Southeast's first multi-organ, multidisciplinary transplant center at Vanderbilt, which came to be recognized as one of the premier transplant facilities in the nation under his astute leadership; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty years of practicing medicine, Dr. Frist performed more than 150 heart and lung transplant procedures and became board certified in both general and cardiothoracic surgery; and

WHEREAS, driven by his innate desire to serve others and his belief that he could do more for his patients, the field of medicine, and his fellow Tennesseans, Dr. Frist began exploring the idea of running for public office; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he was elected to the United States Senate as one of Tennessee's Senators, becoming the first practicing physician to serve in that body since 1928; in 2000, his colleagues elected him to stand as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Frist was unanimously selected to serve as the sixteenth Majority Leader of the United States Senate on December 23, 2002, and in 2004 he was reelected by another unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, as a United States Senator, Bill Frist has served on the Committees on Finance; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Foreign Relations; and

WHEREAS, on the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Frist served as the congressional representative to the United Nations General Assembly in the 107th Congress; and

WHEREAS, he voluntarily stepped down from his honorable position as Majority Leader in 2007 after completing his two pledged terms as a "citizen-legislator," whereupon he returned to Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a prized member of the medical and political worlds alike, Senator Frist has authored more than one hundred peer-reviewed medical articles, more than four hundred newspaper articles, and five books on topics such as bioterrorism and transplantation; and

WHEREAS, driven by a passion for global health, Bill Frist travels to the sub-Saharan Africa at least once each year as part of World Medical Mission, performing surgeries and caring for those who suffer from diseases; and

WHEREAS, his involvement with global health also includes his position as Chair of the nonprofit Hope through Healing Hands, which promotes improved life for communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, he has also served on the boards of Africare, Save the Children, the ONE Campaign, the United States Holocaust Museum's Committee on Conscience, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the William J. Clinton Foundation, the Dorothy Cate and Thomas F. Frist Foundation, Princeton University, the Tennessee Governor's Medicaid Task Force, Tennessee Donor Services, Third National Bank, which is now Sun Trust, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project; and

WHEREAS, Senator Frist is the recipient of no less than eight honorary doctorates in the fields of medicine, civil laws, laws, medical science, and human letters; and

WHEREAS, he has also earned several esteemed awards, a few of which include the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, a Nashville Hero Award from the American Red Cross, and a National Public Service Award from the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, Senator Frist was awarded the 2007-2008 Frederick H. Schultz Professor of International Economic Policy at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Doctor and Senator William H. Frist for his unswerving dedication to the people of the State of Tennessee, the United States, and around the globe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Senator Bill Frist for his meritorious and outstanding service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our gratitude and our confidence in his every future success.

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