

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 49

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend Riley Darnell for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Secretary of State.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Riley Darnell is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary sixteen-year tenure as Tennessee's Secretary of State, from 1993 through 2008, Mr. Darnell distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and to his State; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montgomery County, Riley C. Darnell was born on May 13, 1940, in Clarksville, Tennessee, to Elliot Sinclair and Mary Anita Whitefield Darnell. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Austin Peay State University in 1962 and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1965; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country as a member of the United States Air Force, Captain Riley Darnell saw duty as a judge advocate general from 1966-1969; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1970, Mr. Darnell won election to the Tennessee House of Representatives to represent the good people of the 67th District during the 87th General Assembly and was subsequently reelected in the 88th, 89th, 90th, and 91st General Assemblies, from 1970 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, our former colleague, Mr. Darnell was elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 1980, serving as the senator for Senate District 22; he would serve in the Senate during the 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, and 97th General Assemblies, from 1980 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the General Assembly Mr. Darnell was the Senate Majority Leader from 1989 to 1992, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, chairman of the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth, vice chairman of the Fiscal Review Committee, and vice chairman of the Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was a key member of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Joint Council on Pensions and Retirement as well as the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the office of Secretary of State by the 98th General Assembly in January 1993 and was subsequently re-elected by the 99th through 105th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Riley Darnell's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, active in a number of civic, community, and professional organizations, Mr. Darnell is a member of the Civitan Club, the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce, the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Montgomery County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, a former Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association, in 1973, Mr. Darnell was selected to attend the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Darnell is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Riley Darnell is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Mary Penelope Crockarell Darnell, and their five children, Neil Whitefield, Duncan Edward, Mary Eve, Penelope Joy, and Dawson Riley; and

WHEREAS, Riley Darnell is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mr. Riley Darnell for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Secretary of State, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend our best wishes for success 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.