

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to commend Jai Templeton for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

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

WHEREAS, Jai Templeton has served with distinction and decorum as the thirty-seventh commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for the past two years; during this time, he has deftly served the people of Tennessee, proving himself a public servant of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Templeton was appointed to his current post by Governor Bill Haslam in May 2016; he had previously served the department as deputy commissioner since June 2011; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Templeton served as mayor of McNairy County, leading the county's successful efforts to reduce debt and increase fund balances without raising taxes during the economic recession; he is also a former McNairy County commissioner and former president of the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, from 1995 to 2003, Jai Templeton was a field representative for former U.S. Representative Ed Bryant, covering the rural portion of Tennessee's 7th Congressional District; he also served as a delegate to the 2004 Republican National Convention; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Templeton is a member of the Argricenter International Board of Directors, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the McNairy-Chester County

Cattlemen's Association, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the McNairy County Forestry Landowner's Association, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, Masonic Lodge #338, O.E.S. Chapter #330, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Memphis Ag Club, Mid-South and First Farmers Cooperatives, and the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, of which he is a former board member; and

WHEREAS, a trusted and respected leader among his peers, Commissioner Templeton served as president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, he received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Union University in Jackson and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Certified Public Administrator program and the Nashville Auction School, as well as University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar, Leadership McNairy County, AgStar, Tennessee Government Executive Institute, and Delta Regional Authority Leadership Institute professional development programs; and

WHEREAS, a sixth-generation farmer himself, Commissioner Templeton has produced grain, cotton, hay, cattle, and timber in McNairy and Hardin counties; he currently resides on his family farm in Stantonville; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout faith, Commissioner Templeton is a member of First Baptist Church of Adamsville and Gideon's International; and

WHEREAS, Jai Templeton enjoys the love and support of his wife, Allison, and their three children, Canon Smith, Eliza Smith, and Mycaela Rhodes; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Templeton 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 ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Jai Templeton for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and extend our best wishes for his continued success.

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