

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 108

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charlie Daniel upon his exemplary sixty-year career as an editorial cartoonist.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a gentleman who has provided astute and insightful political commentary for the greater Knoxville community as an editorial cartoonist for more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, beginning his career on July 30, 1958, with the now-defunct *Knoxville Journal*, Charlie Daniel has provided his take on local, State, and national politics for more than sixty years, to the delight of a legion of loyal and appreciative readers; and

WHEREAS, after the *Journal* closed down, Mr. Daniel joined the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* as its editorial cartoonist in 1992 and continued his illustrious career into the second decade of the new millennium; he is taking a much-deserved retirement on February 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, described by one colleague as a "gentle eviscerator," Mr. Daniel was once praised by the late U.S. Senator Howard Baker, Jr., as "the personification of civilized, relevant political humor," and Governor Bill Haslam called him "a great cartoonist and a great man"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniel's work utilized satire while maintaining sympathy for the human condition, and he encapsulated the essence of political issues through "symbolism, irony, and humor"; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Daniel often made his readers laugh, but he always made them think, which is the highest compliment a political cartoonist could ever receive; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of his diamond anniversary, Mr. Daniel was honored with induction into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame as a member of the 2018 class; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Cartoonists Society honored him with a proclamation recognizing his more than fifty-year career; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, he began drawing a weekly comic strip, "Rosy's Diner," which captured the spirit of everyday life in Knoxville while also providing social commentary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniel's vision, talent, and popularity as an editorial cartoonist have resulted in his work being exhibited at the Carroll Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University and in the gallery of the *News Sentinel* building; and

WHEREAS, four collections of his cartoons have been published, and the University of Tennessee library's special collections department has established an archive of more than 20,000 of Mr. Daniel's pre-press drawings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniel is a self-taught artist who has been drawing since he began reading comic books as a youth and picked up a pencil to try his own hand as a cartoonist; and

WHEREAS, after serving a stint with the U.S. Marine Corps, he studied political science at the University of North Carolina, where he began plying his trade in earnest for the campus newspaper, *The Daily Tar Heel*; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the Leadership Knoxville class of 1997, Mr. Daniel has given back to his community as co-chairman of the Dogwood Arts Festival and a board member of the Baptist Health System and the Volunteer Ministry; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Charlie Daniel is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife and childhood sweetheart, the former Patsy Ann Stephenson, and their two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, during his sixty-plus years in the newspaper industry, Charlie Daniel has distinguished himself as an editorial cartoonist without peer and "an icon and institution" in his field, and he is worthy of our approbation; 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 honor and commend Charlie Daniel upon his exemplary sixty-year

career as a political cartoonist with the *Knoxville Journal* and the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, congratulate him upon being inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

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