

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 139

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. E. James Burton for his contributions to Middle Tennessee State University, as Dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. E James (Jim) Burton, of Middle Tennessee State University is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity in the field of education administration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burton became Dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business in August, 1999; since then, the Jones College has reaffirmed its accreditation and received additional accreditation for the accounting program and added a Ph.D. program in economics; and

WHEREAS, he holds a Ph. D. in Accountancy from the University of Illinois, an MBA from Murray State University and a B.A. in Economics-Business from MacMurray College; and

WHEREAS, prior to coming to MTSU, Dr. Burton held faculty positions at Murray State University and Florida State University; he is a certified public accountant and a certified fraud examiner; and

WHEREAS, he has written over fifty articles in academic, professional, and trade journals and has authored/co-authored five books; he also works as an consultant to corporate executives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burton works in service to his community by serving on the Executive Board and as Vice President of Special Projects for the Middle Tennessee Council of Boy

Scouts of America; on the Business-Education Partnership Board; on the Board of the Southern Business Administration Association; and on the Board of Directors at Piedmont Natural Gas Company, among others; and

WHEREAS, he was selected as a founding member of the Area IX Workforce Investment Board, serving Davidson, Rutherford, Wilson, and Trousdale counties; the vision of the Middle Tennessee Workforce Investment Board is to “visualize a skilled workforce in a community that promotes self-sufficiency, economic opportunity, and life-long learning, and supports business and economic growth”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burton was also the organizing founder of Leadership Middle Tennessee and has served on its Board and Executive Committee since its inception; LMT serves a ten county area and aims to instill regional understanding and leadership to common problems; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Board, Finance Committee, and Executive Committee of the MTSU Foundation; Dr. Burton finds great joy in raising and providing stewardship over resources to enhance the MTSU experience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burton is a member of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation Board; he has coordinated the activities of the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise for over ten years; he has also coordinated the activities of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning since its inception; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a devoted educator and community leader, Dr. Burton is dedicated to his loving family; he enjoys the loyal companionship of his wife, Nancy; and is the proud father of two adult children, Robin and Ryan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burton is a faithful and active member of World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro; he credits his faith for sustaining him and providing the strength and guidance he needs as he progresses through life; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as an educator and business professional, Dr. Burton has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of those fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jim Burton exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his profession and to the good people of this State is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. E. James Burton for his contributions to Middle Tennessee State University and the citizens of Tennessee and we wish him continued success in all 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.