

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 157

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James R. Arnette, Jr., CGFM, CISA, upon serving as the 2017-2018 National President for the Association of Government Accountants.

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

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is James R. Arnette, Jr., CGFM, CISA, who served as the 2017-2018 National President for the Association of Government Accountants (AGA); and

WHEREAS, a Davidson County native, now residing in Williamson County, Mr. Arnette received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnette began his career in public service in 1983, as a systems analyst in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury's Office of Management Services. In that role, Mr. Arnette was responsible for the design, implementation, and support of mainframe computer software applications as well as for the procurement and support of personal microcomputers. In 1989, Mr. Arnette transferred to the Division of County Audit, where he established County Audit's Information Technology Audit function, which is responsible for general and application control reviews in county governments across the State; and

WHEREAS, in his more than twenty-nine years of dedication to auditing local governments, he has accepted increased levels of responsibility. In 2007, Mr. Arnette was named Director of the Division of County Audit, and in 2012, he was named Director of the new Division of Local Government Audit. The Division is responsible for the annual financial and

compliance audits of all ninety-five Tennessee counties and monitors the annual audits of more than 1,600 municipalities, non-profits, and related local government entities. The Division is also responsible for reviewing the funds administered by District Attorneys General and Judicial District Drug Task Forces. The Division assists local governments in implementing new auditing and accounting standards and works with the Tennessee General Assembly on legislation impacting local governments; and

WHEREAS, every AGA National President has a theme. Mr. Arnette chose his theme to be *Accountants and Accountability Professionals Working Together to Make Government Work Better*. While mirroring the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury's mission statement, Mr. Arnette emphasized that making government work better is what all government accountability professionals should strive to accomplish, and that by making government work better, we ultimately improve the lives of all citizens who receive the services provided by our various organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnette accomplished many goals during his term as AGA National President. He chaired the National Executive Committee and the National Board of Directors; he assisted in the development of a new governance structure for AGA and guided the National Board of Directors through the historic adoption of bylaws changes that will enable the implementation of the new structure that will allow AGA to operate more strategically and efficiently; he created a new Higher Education Committee that focused on reaching out to colleges and universities and encouraging them to promote careers in public service, teach governmental accounting, and promote AGA's Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certification; he created an inclusivity task force charged with looking for ways AGA's membership can be more inclusive of federal, State and local, academia, and private sector employees working not only as accountants and auditors but as IT professionals, budget analysts, and purchasing agents in the government accountability field; and he created a State and local government task force charged with finding ways to increase participation at national training events by State and local government members, which make up the largest percentage of AGA's membership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnette has been an active member of the Nashville Chapter of AGA since 1989. He served as the 2002-2003 Chapter President for the Nashville Chapter, receiving platinum chapter status recognition, and served as the 2005-2006 Southeastern Region Regional Vice President, leading the region to platinum level distinction. He has also served on AGA's National Executive Committee as National President-Elect for the 2016-2017 program year, National President for the 2017-2018 program year, and is currently serving as the Immediate Past National President for the 2018-2019 program year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnette has demonstrated exceptional leadership, high ethical standards, and a track record of professional excellence; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud James R. Arnette, Jr., CGFM, CISA, for his many contributions to the State of Tennessee; 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 James R. Arnette, Jr., CGFM, CISA, upon serving as the 2017-2018 National President for the Association of Government Accountants and commend his exceptional service to the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury and to the State of Tennessee.

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