

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 169

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tom Fleming for his honorable and dedicated service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

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, Tom Fleming is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary forty-four years of service to the people of Tennessee during his tenure in the Tennessee Public Service Commission and the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, Tom Fleming has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, a Tennessee native born and raised in Columbia, Maury County, Tom Fleming received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the Auburn University in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming began his employment with the State of Tennessee as an accountant with the Tennessee Public Service Commission in June 1963, and after working with the regulatory and assessment matters relative to local governments, he was named the first Director of Assessment for all public utility and railroad assessments and appraisals in Tennessee, a position he held for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming left state government for a short period of time during which he served as Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs for a gas utility company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming returned to state government in 1989 as Director of the Office of Local Government in the Comptroller's Office and was named Director of the Division of

Property Assessments in October 1989 while maintaining his position of Director of the Office of Local Government; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Fleming was appointed Assistant to the Comptroller of the Treasury for Assessments, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 2013; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Comptroller's Office, Mr. Fleming was an integral part of the Office and a vital confidante to Comptroller William Snodgrass, Comptroller John Morgan, and Comptroller Justin Wilson on property assessment and taxation policy as well as other local government issues; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fleming has been instrumental in advocating on behalf of the public's interest and helping to establish a fair and equitable property tax system in Tennessee which is recognized as a model for tax policy; and

WHEREAS, realizing early in his career the importance that professionalism and training played in maintaining a stable economic tax base, Mr. Fleming became very active in the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) becoming a certified teacher, senior instructor, served on several committees, and was elected to serve as the president for the IAAO in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fleming has worked diligently in his profession and earned the Certified Assessment Evaluator (CAE) in 1972 and the IAAO Professional Designee – Certificate of Professional Accomplishment in 1978 and was named the IAAO Most Value Member in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming is a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and a charter member of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers (TIAAO) and has served on numerous national and state committees for such organizations; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fleming has also worked tirelessly for his church, Bethlehem United Methodist Church, and is an essential part of its annual fish fry; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fleming'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, Mr. Fleming is a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he has worked with purpose and conviction to establish a brighter future for the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Tom Fleming is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Judy Baker Fleming, and their two sons, Tommy and daughter-in-law Janie and Steven and daughter-in-law Kristy, and four grandchildren Amelia, Hannah, Kylie and Luke; and

WHEREAS, Tom is an avid Auburn fan and fully supports the Tigers to the extent he is often heard yelling "War Eagle" in the halls of Legislative Plaza; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fleming is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service and making Tennessee government work better for all Tennesseans, and he should be specially recognized; 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 recognize and commend Mr. Tom Fleming for his honorable and exemplary service to the good people of Tennessee and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued 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.