

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 212

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry H. Summers for his meritorious legal service to the City of Chattanooga.

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

WHEREAS, Jerry H. Summers is one such individual, whose dedication to his community is unwavering and longstanding through his success as a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, Mr. Summers graduated from Central High School, the University of the South at Sewanee, and the University of Tennessee College of Law at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, he gained initial legal experience as a prosecutor in the Chattanooga District Attorney's Office, in which position he served for two and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Summers entered private practice in 1969, and he is the founding member of what is now Summers, Rofolo & Rodgers, P.C.; and

WHEREAS, while maintaining an active trial practice, Mr. Summers is the supervising member of Summers, Rofolo & Rodgers, P.C., and he works closely with each attorney at the firm and their specialized practice areas; and

WHEREAS, an experienced trial lawyer, Mr. Summers is one of a small number of attorneys who has been included in each annual volume of *Best Lawyers in America*, in both personal injury and criminal law since 1983; and

WHEREAS, he has argued cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and the Tennessee Supreme Court, and he was involved in numerous landmark decisions in both civil and criminal law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Summers aided in service with the Hamilton County Election Commission for ten years prior to being officially voted into the election commission in April 2009, in which position he has served for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, by an unsolicited vote of the lawyers of Tennessee, Mr. Summers was consistently selected as one of the *Best 100 Lawyers in Tennessee and Mid-South Super Lawyers*; based on legal ability and ethical criteria, he is one of only approximately five attorneys in the State of Tennessee who was selected for membership in each major honorary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Summers is a fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, and the American Board of Trial Advocates; he is one of three attorneys in Tennessee invited to join the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, and in 2019, he was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, a devoted leader of the law, Mr. Summers has served as president of the Tennessee Association of Justice and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; he served on the national boards of America's Association of Justice and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, in which he is also a life member of both the state and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Summers is an active member of several other legal and community groups, and he has served on the boards of Area IV Special Olympics, the Orange Grove Center, and CADAS, among others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Summers is the author of eight books, and he writes several weekly columns for the local online newspaper; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Summers was selected as a Distinguished Alumnus at the Centennial Celebration of Central High School in 2007; in 2014, he was designated as a Distinguished Alumnus at the University of the South at Sewanee, and in 2016, he received that same honor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Summers epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized for his many accomplishments and devoted work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jerry H. Summers for his outstanding work in his community and his profession, and extend to him our best wishes for 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.