

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 243

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Leadership Blount on the occasion of the organization's 25th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations that encourage success and effective leadership by their participants; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Leadership Blount, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the roots of Leadership Blount date back to 1988, when a proposal was made to form a community leadership program to identify and increase the number of volunteers supporting various organizations in Blount County in order to build the volunteer base of the county; and

WHEREAS, seeking to bring this endeavor to fruition, a steering committee composed of board members from the United Way of Blount County and the Blount County Chamber of Commerce was created in 1989; and

WHEREAS, after hiring the first executive director, Leadership Blount enrolled its inaugural class in 1990, beginning the twenty-five-year tradition of educating and instilling a sense of community pride; and

WHEREAS, selecting participants with diverse backgrounds and both established and potential community leaders, Leadership Blount has now graduated more than 800 individuals in various industries and organizations throughout Blount County; and

WHEREAS, the immediate success of the program led to the establishment of a similar effort at the high school level; Youth Leadership Blount was initiated in 1995, graduated its first class in 1996, and now has an alumni base of more than 300; and

WHEREAS, special milestones observed in the history of Leadership Blount include the formation of the alumni reunions in 1992, the implementation of the annual legacy project in 1997, the establishment of the Community Leadership Award in 2000, hosting the Leadership Summit in conjunction with Maryville College in 2004, and the completion of the 25th anniversary Legacy Project to provide transitional housing for Blount County's homeless population in 2015; and

WHEREAS, always adhering to its mission statement, Leadership Blount strengthens its community by educating and encouraging current and potential leaders for active, lifelong community service; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Blount is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and this worthy organization should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Leadership Blount for its laudable service to the people of Blount County and this State, congratulate its current members and graduates on the occasion of Leadership Blount's 25th anniversary, and applaud their determination to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens.

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