

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 325

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Deborah Patterson Koch for her service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch has served the State of Tennessee loyally and effectively from 1979 to 1986 and from 2007 to 2021 in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maury County, Deborah Patterson Koch graduated from Memphis State University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Public Administration and was named to *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*; and

WHEREAS, while a student at Memphis State University, Deborah Patterson Koch had her first opportunity at public service when she was chosen to serve as one of the first legislative interns and subsequently worked with various distinguished members of the General Assembly, including Representative U.A. Moore of Millington; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation, Deborah Patterson Koch embarked on a successful public relations career and counted among her clients the Nashville Symphony Association, the Tennessee Performing Arts Foundation, the Nashville Aquatic Club, the Nashville Baseball Club, and the Tennessee Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, after having served as a press aide in the 1974 gubernatorial campaign of Dr. Nat Winston and the 1974 and 1976 campaigns of Congressman Robin Beard, Deborah Patterson Koch served on Governor Lamar Alexander's 1978 campaign staff and transition team and was appointed Deputy Press Secretary to the Governor in 1979; and

WHEREAS, as Deputy Press Secretary, Deborah Patterson Koch weathered the long walks, the Nissan talks, a Saturn landing, visiting governors and presidents, Japanese leaders, career ladders, and thousands of other front-page stories and late-night sessions; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch left State service in 1986 to become Director of Communications at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, eventually rising to the position of Senior Vice President for Administration; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure at Baptist Hospital, she was responsible for all phases of internal and external communications, public relations, advertising, event planning, and patient relations and successfully created a branding strategy that helped make Baptist Hospital the "hospital of choice" in Middle Tennessee for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch left Baptist Hospital in 2004 to become an independent healthcare communications and marketing consultant; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, at the invitation of Governor Phil Bredesen, Deborah Patterson Koch returned to State service as Director of Communications and Marketing for the Cover Tennessee program which included CoverKids, CoverTN, CoverRX, and AccessTN; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Deborah Patterson Koch was named Director of Communications and Marketing for the Benefits Administration Division of the Department of Finance and Administration; and

WHEREAS, as Director of Communications and Marketing, Deborah Patterson Koch wrote or edited tens of thousands of publications, documents, emails, handbooks, annual reports, brochures, presentations, talking points, media responses, and websites, reading every single sentence, dotting all "i's" and crossing all "t's," so that no one would ever print "Season's Geetings" instead of "Season's Greetings"; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch regularly maintained written and audio communications with 900 agency benefits coordinators at more than 600 agencies and added the memorable phrase to her lexicon on each of their marathon monthly calls, "Star 6 to unmute yourself"; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch respected Finance and Administration commissioners and cherished her nightly walks around the 28th Floor of the Tennessee Tower with Commissioner Larry Martin; she would never be caught dead in jeans at work, except that once she was (caught, not dead) and maybe it was in front of Commissioner Mark Emkes; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch has given freely of her time and talents in volunteer leadership positions with public and private organizations, including the Tennessee

Higher Education Commission; the Board of Trustees of the Ladies Hermitage Association/Andrew Jackson Foundation, including two years as Regent; the Tennessee State Museum Committee, including serving as vice-chairman and chairman; the Tennessee Arts Foundation, including serving as vice-chairman and chairman; the Board of Directors of the Nashville Symphony Association; the Board of Directors of the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley; the Board of Directors of The Blakeford in Green Hills; a community partner on the Metro Public Health Department Maternal and child PPOR; and the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, throughout all her endeavors, Deborah Patterson Koch has distinguished herself as a diligent worker, collaborative team member, and faithful friend; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, William C. Koch, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Patterson Koch exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Deborah Patterson Koch has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and the good people of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Deborah Patterson Koch our heartfelt best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her 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.