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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 337

By Rose

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate H. Dale Hall upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this General Assembly to recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have wholly devoted themselves to serving their fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is H. Dale Hall, chief executive officer of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., who has dedicated his career to serving this State and nation through environmental conservation; he recently announced that he will be taking his much-deserved retirement in June 2019, bringing to a close decades of exceptional leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1937, Ducks Unlimited is headquartered in Tennessee; in addition to the organization's 550 employees, it boasts more than 50,000 volunteers and 750,000 members nationwide and has conserved over fourteen million acres of habitat, a portion of which is in Tennessee and was preserved and enhanced in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the helm of Ducks Unlimited, Dale Hall has established record volunteer growth and overseen numerous conservation fundraising campaigns; his remarkable career of service and leadership in conservation culminated in his successful oversight of the largest continental campaign in the history of conservation for a non-governmental organization, raising more than $2 billion for wetlands conservation; and

WHEREAS, Dale Hall earned his bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Cumberland College, now University of the Cumberlands, and his master's degree in fisheries science from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall served his country for four years as a member of the United States Air Force and was deployed to Italy and the Philippines; after his service with the Armed Forces was completed, he continued to serve his country in other capacities in the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years, Dale Hall worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, during which time he successfully fulfilled the duties of regional director for the Southwest Region in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and deputy assistant director for fisheries in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall was appointed director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by President George W. Bush, in which capacity he served during the final four years of his public-service career; as director, he was responsible for more than 8,000 federal employees and oversaw a budget of $2.4 billion, in addition to his duties of stewardship of our nation's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service on the board of directors of Ducks Unlimited, Mr. Hall has served on the boards of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, America's Wetland Foundation, and the Bass Pro Shop Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, and he is a trustee with the Wetlands America Trust; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hall has often been honored for his good work; most recently, he was named to the Louisiana State University Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting his legacy; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dale Hall is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of forty-two years, Sarah Reed Hall, and their three children and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens at this time; 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 congratulate H. Dale Hall upon his retirement as chief executive officer of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., commend him for his unswerving devotion to conservation efforts across the nation, and extend our best wishes for continued success in all 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.