

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 379

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize James M. "Jim" Henry for a lifetime of meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

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

WHEREAS, one such esteemed individual is James M. "Jim" Henry, who has devoted his time and energy to improving the quality of life for his fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, a Tennessee native, Jim Henry was born on February 22, 1945, in Jefferson City to Scobey and Lorene Henry; and

WHEREAS, he attended Hiwassee College and then the University of Tennessee between 1963 and 1967, earning his degree in Business Administration and Education; and

WHEREAS, from 1967 until 1970, Mr. Henry bravely served his country with the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, where he was active in combat during the 1968 Tet Offensive; while stationed in Vietnam, he was a Petty Officer Second Class who served on a Patrol Crafts Fast, a river patrol boat more commonly referred to as a "swift boat"; and

WHEREAS, for their valiant service in Vietnam, Jim Henry's unit was honored with the Distinguished Service Award and the Navy Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, when Mr. Henry was only twenty-six years old, he was elected City Councilman in Kingston, in which capacity he served until 1973, when he was elected Mayor of Kingston; he served as the highly respected Mayor of Kingston until 1978; and

WHEREAS, while he was still serving as Mayor, he founded the Jim Henry and Associates Realty Company, a company that has developed into a major area real estate brokerage firm; and

WHEREAS, after his successful tenure as Mayor, Jim Henry went on to be elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives from the Thirty-Second District in 1978; during his first term from 1978 until 1980, he stood as Chairman of the Republican Caucus, and, in 1980, he was elected as the House Republican Leader, a position he held until 1986; and

WHEREAS, a philanthropic community leader, Mr. Henry was an early advocate for the Michael Dunn Center, a school and center in Roane County for special needs children; while in the General Assembly, he also worked to gain funding for the Henry Center, a center for preschool children in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, a political leader who quickly gained the admiration and respect of his colleagues, Mr. Henry also stood as Chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party from 1984 until 1988; in 1986, he secured funding for what is now known as the Henry/Stafford East Tennessee Exposition Center, located at Roane State Community College in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1988, Jim Henry was joined in holy matrimony to his wife of twenty-one years, Pat Henry, and this blessed union produced three children, John, Jimmy Jr., and Liesa; Mr. Henry is quick to credit his wife as the driving force in his life and as his secret to true success; and

WHEREAS, Jim Henry continued to represent the Thirty-Second House District with distinction until 1990; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an astute politician and businessman alike, Mr. Henry now serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Omni Visions, Inc., a business that provides services to developmentally disabled and troubled children and adults; Omni Visions currently supports more than 1,000 children and adults in Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and public praise, he was honored with the Tennessee Jaycees Outstanding Young Man's Award in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Jim Henry is a widely respected war veteran, politician, businessman, and public servant, and he should be specially honored for his many significant contributions and his unending service to the people of this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize James M. "Jim" Henry for his years of meritorious service to the citizens of this State and nation, thank him for using his time and many talents to better the world around him, and extend to him our wishes for every future success and happiness.

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