

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 394

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Honorable Claudia C. Bonnyman on the occasion of her retirement as Chancery Court Judge for the 20th Judicial District for the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Claudia C. Bonnyman is one such noteworthy jurist, who served the good people of Davidson County and the State of Tennessee with distinction since her appointment as Chancery Court Judge for the 20th Judicial District in Davidson County in September 2003; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary fifteen-year tenure on the bench, Chancellor Bonnyman has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, a 1970 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Claudia Bonnyman received her law degree at Vanderbilt University School of Law, where she was awarded the Order of the Coif; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her legal degree, Chancellor Bonnyman served as a law clerk for Justice William J. Harbison of the Tennessee Supreme Court and then became the only female Assistant District Attorney in the office of District Attorney Tom Shriver; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bonnyman, prior to her illustrious career on the bench, was a partner with Ortale, Kelly, Herbert and Crawford and, earlier, was a partner at Waddey and Jennings; in 1989, she was appointed Clerk and Master for Chancery and was reappointed by the then sitting chancellors in 1995 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, Claudia C. Bonnyman was appointed to the Chancery bench by Governor Phil Bredesen in September 2003 to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected by popular vote in 2004 to serve the balance of the term; she won re-election to the bench without opposition in 2006 and was re-elected once more on August 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of her profession, she is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the American Bar Association and a founding member of the Lawyers Association for Women, which she served as the organization's first president; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bonnyman is a member of the Tennessee Judicial Council and was invited to become a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and the Tennessee Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman received the Women's Equity at Vanderbilt award from the nonprofit organization W.E.A.V.E. while in private practice and received the Healing Arts Project, Inc., Community Friend Award in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bonnyman evinces her faith as a member of Belmont United Methodist Church, where she has served in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman is most appreciative of the love and support of her husband, Gordon Bonnyman, Jr., the founder of the nonprofit Tennessee Justice Center, and their son, a primary care physician in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bonnyman exemplifies the commitment to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Claudia C. Bonnyman has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before her court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; 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 extend to Chancellor Claudia C. Bonnyman our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud her years of dedicated public service as Chancery Court judge in the 20th Judicial District for Davidson County, and wish her every continued success in all 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.