

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 490

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor Jeff Smith, Deputy for Operations, on the occasion of his retirement from Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those dedicated professionals who utilize their unique talents and institutional knowledge to advance this nation's scientific research mission; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Smith, Deputy for Operations at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), is retiring on April 30, 2021, after more than two decades of building a culture of operational excellence across the laboratory's campus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has served as ORNL's chief operating officer since UT-Battelle won the lab's management contract in 2000, and his contributions have been transformative in making ORNL the largest and most diverse of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) science laboratories; and

WHEREAS, although he humbly shares credit and dislikes the spotlight, Mr. Smith has been a part of every major initiative at ORNL in the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Jeff Smith led ORNL's \$400 million modernization effort, which resulted in the transformation of the Manhattan Project site into one of the most modern laboratories in the world; and

WHEREAS, he was critical in securing state, federal, and private funding for the showcase central campus quad, including the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility and new laboratory and office space that make ORNL an attractive destination for researchers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Smith has also brought a strong safety culture to ORNL, and his contributions now benefit all seven national laboratories in which Battelle has an operating interest; and

WHEREAS, he has overseen efforts to improve the reliability of the High Flux Isotope Reactor, supported the construction and operation of the Spallation Neutron Source, and served as the principal interface with U.S. Department of Defense on a major classified program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has participated in the development of all of Battelle's bids on laboratory management contracts in the past fifteen years and has served on the governing boards of DOE's Pacific Northwest, Brookhaven, and Idaho national laboratories and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has given back to his community as a leader in the renovation and expansion of Oak Ridge High School, and he was instrumental in the recruitment of Cirrus Aircraft to Blount County; and

WHEREAS, he is a longtime board member of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority and served on the White House Transition Planning Office responsible for creating the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, he began his presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed term on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors, and he currently chairs TVA's Nuclear Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has served on the boards of Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties, the Anderson County Red Cross, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and he is currently a member of the boards of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, Cherokee Farms Development Corporation, and the East Tennessee Economic Council; and

WHEREAS, he also volunteers with his wife, Debbie, to help Homes of Love, a Knoxville-based organization that provides care and support for orphans and other at-risk children in Southeast Asia and Africa; and

WHEREAS, truly a Renaissance man, Jeff Smith is an instrument-rated pilot who has built his own sport aerobatic plane, restored a classic pickup truck, and built three homes in his spare time; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of The Ohio State University, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Debbie; their three daughters, Britney, Kaley, and Natalie; their two granddaughters, Keller and Lane; and their grandson, Reid; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Smith has served ORNL with purpose and commitment for more than twenty years, and he is richly deserving of our approbation on this special occasion; 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 honor Jeff Smith on his long and proficient tenure as Deputy for Operations at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and extend to him our best wishes for every success and happiness in his retirement.

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.