

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 511

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Joe Cross upon being named the *Independent Herald/Scott County Chamber of Commerce 2017 Scott County Person of the Year*.

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

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Joe Cross of Scott County, a community leader who was recently named the *Independent Herald/Scott County Chamber of Commerce 2017 Person of the Year*; and

WHEREAS, a career pharmacist, Mr. Cross has a passion for public health that threads through his every endeavor; whether through encouraging physical activity or healthy eating, he has long sought to improve the lives of the people of Scott County; and

WHEREAS, to call him the forefather of mountain biking in Scott County would not be a misnomer; a mountain biking enthusiast himself, Joe Cross has spearheaded various initiatives in the county that have had positive, enduring effects for the sport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cross is primarily responsible for the mountain biking trails at the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (BSF), an organization he has partnered with since the 1980s; he convinced BSF to allow mountain biking on some of its trails, making the national park one of the few National Park Service units in America that permit mountain biking; and

WHEREAS, several hiking trails and most horse trails at BSF allow mountain biking, and Collier Ridge Loop, West Bandy, and Duncan Hollow Loop were built specifically for the activity; these three biking trails, along with the Grand Gap and John Muir hiking trails, have been

designated "Epic" by the International Mountain Biking Association, a coveted status reserved for only a few trails each year. With this designation in 2012, BSF found itself a premier destination for mountain bikers from all over; and

WHEREAS, Joe Cross is also responsible for helping launch a mountain biking program with the Boys & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateau; after he partnered with the club's chief procurement officer, Justin Sharpe, the two consulted with a club in Dalton, Georgia, that had successfully begun such a program, subsequently obtaining grant funding to get their program started; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the program, many of the Boys & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateau's 800 members have been introduced to the sport of mountain biking; they have access to top-of-the-line Trek mountain bikes as well as a pair of mountain bike tracks and a pump track that were designed by a professional trail builder; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cross has long maintained the goal of getting kids involved with mountain biking in an effort to keep them active and healthy; in addition to his continued involvement with the mountain biking program at the Boys & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateau, he was behind the construction of the multi-use trail at Bear Creek Sports Complex in Oneida; and

WHEREAS, beyond his impressive contributions to the sport of mountain biking in Scott County, Joe Cross has taken the initiative to become an advocate for health and well-being among his fellow locals; he launched and plays an active role in a Facebook group called "Let's Eat Healthier Scott County," which promotes healthier eating habits while raising awareness of the chronic health issues that face the citizens of Scott County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cross has done much to improve the lives and the health of his fellow Scott Countians, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Joe Cross upon being named the *Independent Herald/Scott County Chamber of Commerce 2017 Person of the Year* and extend

to him our sincere best wishes for much continued success and happiness 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.