

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 536

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor Barry A. Stephenson of Oak Ridge on his receipt of the 2023 Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award.

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

WHEREAS, Barry A. Stephenson of Oak Ridge is one such estimable individual, who was recently named this year's winner of the prestigious Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award by Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties (ADFAC); and

WHEREAS, the Bow Tie Award was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Bill Wilcox, who was known for his trademark bow ties. Mr. Wilcox was an active and loyal supporter of numerous community, civic, and religious organizations, including ADFAC; and

WHEREAS, the Bow Tie Award honors local individuals who, like Mr. Wilcox, selflessly share their gifts for the betterment and well-being of the community and its citizens. Recipients are judged on a set of criteria that includes involvement with ADFAC, living a meaningful life of good works and community activity, and creating a positive local impact throughout East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed businessman, philanthropist, and community leader, Barry A. Stephenson is president and chief executive officer of Materials and Chemistry Laboratory Inc. (MCLinc.), and a chemist with over thirty-two years of experience, including twenty-five years in senior management positions in environmental analytical laboratories; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson received both his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and his Master of Science degree in Science Education from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, ever dedicated to serving the needs of his community, he is active in Rotary, the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation, the East Tennessee Economic Council, and the ADFAC; and

WHEREAS, an avid supporter of the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, Barry Stephenson and MCLinc recently made a \$50,000 contribution to fund the final ramp needed to make the interior of the historic Children's Museum building accessible for strollers and those with disabilities in compliance with ADA standards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson and MCLinc have supported events at the Children's Museum for more than a decade, and this gift to the Oak Ridge community will benefit not only current residents but generations yet to come; and

WHEREAS, Barry Stephenson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud him for his dedication to community service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Barry A. Stephenson upon his receipt of the 2023 Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award, commending his distinguished service to his community and extending to him our best wishes for every future success.

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.