

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 553

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to commend Gary Harris for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gary Harris is one such commendable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as director of the Office of State Assessed Properties for the Comptroller of the Treasury, Mr. Harris has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, a forty-two-year employee of the State of Tennessee, Gary Harris is a 1973 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and holds the Certified Assessment Evaluator (CAE) designation conferred by the International Association of Assessing Officers as well as the Certified General Real Estate Appraiser license in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Gary Harris began his illustrious career in State government in 1975 as a mapper in the Division of Property Assessments within the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, where he received several promotions and additional responsibilities over the next eight years; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mr. Harris was employed by the Public Service Commission and rose through the ranks over the next twelve years to become assistant director of the Public Service Commission Assessment Division in 1995; and

WHEREAS, with the abolishment of the Public Service Commission, Mr. Harris was transferred to the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury to work in the newly created Office of

State Assessed Properties, where he served as assistant director for twenty years before being named to his current post as director of the Office of State Assessed Properties in 2015; and

WHEREAS, an active and dynamic member of his profession, Mr. Harris is a valued member of the Southern Association of State Property Tax Administrators, which he has served as president; and

WHEREAS, Gary Harris is a forty-year member of the International Association of Assessing Officers, serving with distinction as a member of the Executive Board and having chaired several committees; and

WHEREAS, he is a charter member of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers and has completed various appraisal and assessment courses offered by the Appraisal Institute and the Society of Real Estate Appraisers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris currently serves on planning committees for the Wichita Appraisal Workshop for the Appraisal for Ad Valorem Taxation of Communications, Energy and Transportation Properties; and

WHEREAS, a proud member of American Legion Post 5 in Nashville, Mr. Harris rendered sterling service in the Tennessee National Guard; he attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 and received the Army Commendation Medal on two occasions; and

WHEREAS, Gary Harris's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, Mr. Harris epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Gary Harris enjoys the love and support of his son and daughter-in-law, Brandon and Allison Harris, and his grandchildren, Tommy and Lauren; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of First United Methodist Church in Gallatin, Mr. Harris also enjoys feeding and watching his Koi fish in his backyard pond; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially 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 hereby commend Gary Harris for his honorable and astute service to Tennessee as director of the Office of State Assessed Properties for the Comptroller of the Treasury, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in 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.