

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 607

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to congratulate East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, efforts to bring a medical school to Johnson City and East Tennessee State University (ETSU) began during the late 1960s; and

WHEREAS, many elected officials, educators, physicians, and other community members of great influence led the push for bringing a medical school to the region, including Congressman James H. Quillen, physician Dr. Charles Ed Allen, State Representatives P.L. Robinson, Bob Good, and Gwen Fleming, ETSU Dean of Health John Lamb, attorney Mark Hicks, Speaker of the House of Representatives Ned McWherter, newspaper publisher Carl Jones, State Senator Marshall Nave, and ETSU President Dr. D.L. Culp, among others; and

WHEREAS, victory for the region was achieved on March 12, 1974, when the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the creation of a college of medicine at ETSU, pursuant to the provisions of the Teague-Cranston Act; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of Northeast Tennessee's longtime congressman, Quillen College of Medicine was founded with a mission to train rural primary care physicians and enrolled its first class of twenty-four students in August of 1978; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Quillen College of Medicine received full accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, and in that same year, the school awarded its first medical doctorate degrees to twenty-four successful candidates; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a \$6.1 million grant to the ETSU Division of Health Sciences to launch the Community Partnerships for Health Professions Education Program; and

WHEREAS, in May 2001, Quillen College of Medicine reached a remarkable milestone when its 1,000th medical doctorate degree was awarded; and

WHEREAS, Quillen ETSU Physicians is the main practice group for the College of Medicine and is a major provider of specialty and subspecialty care, treating thousands of patients every year; and

WHEREAS, Quillen College of Medicine has three family medicine centers located in Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol, and the institution enjoys teaching partnerships with all major hospitals in the region; and

WHEREAS, ETSU has been consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the nation's top schools for rural medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, ETSU opened Stanton-Gerber Hall, the administration and basic sciences building for Quillen College of Medicine named in honor of Dr. Paul Stanton, the university's president emeritus and former medical school dean, and the late Dr. Carl Gerber, former director of Quillen Veterans Administration Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Quillen College of Medicine opened its human patient simulation lab in 2004, and in 2008, the school, along with the Medical Education Assistance Corporation and the Department of Family Medicine, added \$437.8 million to Tennessee's economy; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2013, Quillen College of Medicine has awarded 1,725 medical doctorate degrees; and

WHEREAS, Quillen College of Medicine has been a bastion of excellence in the training of medical care providers for four decades, and it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body pause to acknowledge this auspicious anniversary of this fine Tennessee institution of higher learning; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge the 40th anniversary of East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine, congratulating the president, faculty, administration, and students for the excellence that has been achieved and maintained across the years, and we extend to the institution our most sincere best wishes for continuity of its success for many more years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.