

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 618

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Debbie Shedden upon being chosen as the recipient of the 2011 C. Hal Henard Distinguished Service/School Board Member of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding individuals who have devoted their careers to providing the very best education to Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Debbie Shedden is one such estimable advocate for children and member of the Hawkins County Board of Education who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shedden was recently named as the recipient of the Tennessee School Board Association's (TSBA) highest individual award, the 2011 C. Hal Henard Distinguished Service School Board Member of the Year Award, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a Hawkins County Board of Education member as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, judged the most deserving of an elite group of nominees, Mrs. Shedden will serve as chairman of the All Tennessee School Board; and

WHEREAS, a Level 5 Board of Education member, the highest designation bestowed by the TSBA, Debbie Shedden has been a member of the Hawkins County Board of Education since 2008, serving on over ten committees; and

WHEREAS, always striving for excellence in her endeavors, Debbie Shedden is on the TSBA Board of Directors, serving as the Northeast District Director, FRN District Director, and TLN representative; she also serves as a Diamond TSBA Ambassador for Education, a TSBA GASB 45 Trust Trustee, a SCOPE moderator, and an NSBA Southern Region Resolutions Committee member in 2011; and

WHEREAS, working assiduously to improve her local board, Debbie Shedden launched a paperless initiative, wrote a policy for iPad usage, wrote and initiated a Student Board Representative from three area schools, drafted a Conflict of Interest Statement which addresses conflicts of interest between board members and school employees, and served as a mentor to new school board members; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, she has won numerous honors throughout her exemplary career, including the National School Board Association (NSBA) distinguished service award in 2011, and her board has been listed as a Board of Distinction since 2002, received the School of the Year Award in 2010, participated in the Niswonger Distance Learning i3 Grant, and received the Tennessee's Best Employee Appreciation Program Award in 2010; and

WHEREAS, committed to furthering the educational goals of her community, she has attended all school board meetings, special-called meetings, and board workshops, and regularly attends TSBA Fall District Meetings, Summer Law Institutes, Legislative and Leadership Conferences, the FRN Conference in Washington, the NSBA Facilities Management Conference, and the NSBA Southern Region Conference; and

WHEREAS, she has been involved in many important programs, including the Energy Efficiency Initiative with the Lighting Project and "Positive Reflections," implemented by Mrs. Shedden, which invites former Hawkins County students to speak at board meetings and share their experiences in the local school system; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her extensive efforts on behalf of education, Debbie Shedden is a past president for the American Heart Association, a member of the United Way and Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and a past President for the Rogersville Downtown Merchants Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shedden truly epitomizes the paragon of the dedicated public servant who is wholly committed to the highest ideal of quality education for all, and it is fitting that she be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Debbie Shedden upon being chosen as the 2011 C. Hal Henard Distinguished Service/School Board Member of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the students, teachers, and parents of her school district and of the State of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her 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.