

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 774

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Darlene Walker Schlicher on the occasion of her retirement from the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pay special tribute to those estimable legislative employees whose commitment to excellence and dedication to public service have brought untold benefits to the citizens of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Darlene Walker Schlicher, who is taking her much-deserved retirement this year after a distinguished career devoted to politics and to working for the General Assembly, culminating in her position as press secretary for the Senate Republican Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Darlene Schlicher has devoted half a century to work in the political realm, inspired by modern Republican Party pioneers United States Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Governor Winfield Dunn, and United States Senator Bill Brock, as well as the studied and thoughtful citizenship of her father, Harlie V. Walker; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Schlicher's career in politics began in 1972, when she joined Senator Baker's re-election campaign; she thereafter became involved with Tennessee Teen Age Republicans, through which she met her future husband, Mike Schlicher, as well as Tennessee Young Republicans, which she served as secretary in 1979; and

WHEREAS, after a one-year stint as an intern, campaign aide, and staff member for Senator Brock in 1975, she interned with State Representative Bobby Wood in the Tennessee House of Representatives; after serving as a staff member to the Tennessee Republican Party's

Legislative Campaign Committee from 1977 to 1978, she served as staff member to the Hamilton County Republican Party for one year; and

WHEREAS, a career State employee, Mrs. Schlicher began her service with the General Assembly in 1979 as press secretary for the Senate Republican Caucus; she served in this capacity until 1984, under the leadership of Caucus Chairmen Curtis Person and Ben Atchley, respectively; and

WHEREAS, after time off to be with her young children and brief work as a paralegal for Baker, Worthington, Crossley, Stansberry and Woolf, she was happily re-welcomed to the fold of the General Assembly in 1992, assuming the role of executive assistant to Representatives Charles Severance and Maria Peroulas in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Mrs. Schlicher became press secretary for the House Republican Caucus, deftly serving in this role for ten years under the consecutive leadership of House Republican Leaders H.E. Bittle and Steve McDaniel; and

WHEREAS, she served as research and policy analyst to the House Republican Caucus from 2002 to 2006 under the direction of Chairman Charles Sargent and Republican Leader Tre Hargett, thereafter serving in that same capacity to House Republican Leader Jason Mumpower from 2006 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, Darlene Schlicher has held her current position of Senate Republican Caucus Press Secretary since 2007, serving under Chairmen Diane Black, Bill Ketron, and Ken Yager, as well as Republican Leaders Mark Norris and Jack Johnson; and

WHEREAS, a beloved and revered member of the General Assembly staff, she was named Senate Employee of the Year in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Schlicher is a 1974 graduate of Red Bank High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and History Education from the University of

Tennessee at Chattanooga; she completed hours toward a Master of Education/Curriculum and Instruction degree at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, she is most grateful for the love and support of her husband of forty-two years, Mike Schlicher; their three children, John (Elizabeth) Schlicher, Katie (Donovan) Grigsby, and Michael Schlicher, Jr.; and their four grandchildren, Abigail Grigsby, Andrew Grigsby, James Schlicher, and Caroline Schlicher; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Schlicher is an extremely compassionate citizen who epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this General Assembly, Darlene Schlicher has distinguished herself as a public servant of the highest order and should be specially recognized on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Darlene Walker Schlicher on the occasion of her retirement and extend to her our deepest appreciation for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee. We give her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.