

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 778

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to recognize District Attorney General Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III is one such estimable person who has served with distinction since 1987 as the District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District of the State of Tennessee and has recently announced that he will be taking his much deserved retirement later this year; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III earned the faith and trust of the citizens of Davidson County as their top prosecutor, and won election to serve as District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District for three consecutive eight-year terms; and

WHEREAS, General Johnson began his legal career working as a judicial clerk for a year before joining the District Attorney's office, where he eventually led the Special Prosecution Unit that targeted career criminals; and

WHEREAS, leaving to go into private practice for a few years, General Johnson subsequently returned to the District Attorney's office as an Assistant District Attorney and Team Leader before being appointed to his current position by Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, General Johnson has been a strong advocate for victims of crime and was instrumental in establishing the Nashville Child Advocacy Center, now the Nashville Children's Alliance, which offers support and counseling services for children who are sexually and physically abused; and

WHEREAS, overseeing a staff of approximately 125 employees and 60 Assistant District Attorneys, General Johnson also maintained a highly regarded Victim Witness Services program, designed to assist and encourage crime victims and help them understand the criminal court system; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the legal community in Tennessee, General Johnson has held leadership roles in various legal and professional organizations, which include service as Vice President of the National District Attorneys Association and President of the Tennessee Prosecutors' Association; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as a member of the Board of Directors for both the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations and has been a member of other criminal justice boards and commissions throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, General Johnson also contributes his time and considerable talents to numerous civic and charitable organizations, including Leadership Nashville, the Adventure Science Center, and the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Torry Johnson is perhaps proudest of the love and support he shares with his wife and three daughters; and

WHEREAS, Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the citizens of Davidson County; 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 honor and commend District Attorney General to Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III on his exemplary service to the 20th Judicial District, applauding his many years of dedicated service to the good people of Tennessee, and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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.