

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 781

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Helen "Tootie" Haskins for her meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those individuals who dedicate themselves to perpetuating the public good, committing their time and energies to improving the quality of life for Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Helen "Tootie" Haskins, who serves as an exemplar of lifelong volunteerism and who has devoted herself to manifesting her political ideals through tireless support of the Republican Party and the political process; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Honey and Howard Haskins of Centerville and special guardians the late Abe and Tommie Robinson of Mobile, Alabama, Ms. Haskins is a graduate of Harpeth Hall in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Tootie Haskins is a 1968 graduate of Sophie Newcomb College for Women in New Orleans, now a division of Tulane University, where she was an outstanding member of Phi Mu Sorority and for whom she later served for four years as the National Pledge Director; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haskins began her thirty-three-year career on Capitol Hill in 1971 as an aide to Senators Halbert Harvill, Bill Baird, Reagor Motlow, and Milton Hamilton; in 1980, she joined the staff of Republican Leader Senator Ben Atchley, retiring in 2004 as the Executive Leadership Assistant; and

WHEREAS, since her retirement, Ms. Haskins has rendered sterling service as a member of the State Capitol Commission and the Executive Committee of the Davidson County Republican Party; she also devoted much of her time welcoming guests to Legislative Plaza,

utilizing her singular expertise and genial hospitality to greet and inform visitors as well as provide tours of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haskins has given tirelessly to officeholders, campaigns, and potential candidates, and she has been a close friend and confidante to elected officials across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, always gracious and confident in the face of any challenge, Miss Tootie has coordinated numerous activities and events for various groups over the years in Nashville and across Tennessee, including the Southern Legislation Conference, the Lieutenant Governor's Conference, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the campaigns of Bill Frist for United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Ms. Haskins has served as an ambassador of The Shepherd Center Society's Nashville Chapter, which supports United States service men and women who suffer with post-traumatic stress disorder and other brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, Tootie Haskins was honored by Women In Numbers for her exemplary service to Tennessee and the State Senate in 2004; she also received the Davidson County GOP's Gov. Winfield Dunn Leadership Award in 2009 and has been honored by the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women for her innumerable contributions to the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haskins is an inspiration to all who know her, and her dedication to improving the lives of Tennesseans and her sterling service are worthy of recognition; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that Ms. Haskins be recognized for her commitment to public service and her lasting legacy to the good people of Tennessee; 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 recognize Helen "Tootie" Haskins for her many contributions, applaud her tireless service to the State of Tennessee and its citizens, and extend our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

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