

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 782

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend J. Douglas Overbey upon his illustrious tenure in the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize one of our own who has left the legislative process behind to focus upon an exciting new career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Senator J. Douglas Overbey of Maryville, an outstanding legislator who served a combined seventeen years in the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to his resignation, was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee on February 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, as U.S. Attorney, Doug Overbey serves as the top-ranking federal law enforcement official in the Eastern District of Tennessee, the largest federal district in the State, which is headquartered in Knoxville with branch offices in Greeneville and Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, we are certain that he will provide excellent leadership in his new role of directing the prosecution of federal crimes, the defense of the federal government in civil actions, and the collection of debts owed to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Doug Overbey distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his constituency, representing Senate District 2 (Blount and Sevier counties) as a member of the 106th through 110th General Assemblies and House District 20 (part of Blount County) as a member of the 102nd through 105th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Doug Overbey earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Carson-Newman College, graduating *magna cum laude*, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of

Tennessee College of Law, where he graduated first in his class, was inducted into the Order of the Coif, was named Graduate of the Year by Roosevelt Inn, and held membership in Phi Delta Phi; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the General Assembly, Senator Overbey served as chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee; first vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; second vice chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; a member of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Senate Rules Committee, Joint Fiscal Review Committee, Joint Committee on Pensions and Insurance, House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and House Health Committee; and chairman of the General Assembly's Arts Caucus; and

WHEREAS, some of the many noteworthy achievements of his legislative career include his leadership in enacting Tennessee's Safe Haven Law and legislation requiring smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in long-term care facilities; he also successfully sponsored and helped pass a major medical malpractice reform bill in 2008, which has resulted in a nearly fifty-percent reduction in the filing of medical malpractice lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, Senator Overbey was also an advocate for hospitals, job growth, and small businesses, and he ardently supported our veterans; in 2016, he sponsored and helped pass a bill to remove the income cap for property tax relief for veterans who have a 100-percent service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, Senator Doug Overbey devoted himself to causes concerning individuals living with intellectual disabilities, mental illnesses, and addiction; he made significant strides toward improving services for these individuals, including winning passage of legislation to create the Step Up program, which gives persons with intellectual disabilities access to lottery scholarships for higher education programs; and

WHEREAS, Senator Doug Overbey has been honored with the Law & Liberty Award from the Knoxville Bar Association, the Community Leadership Award from Leadership Blount, the Bud Cramer Award from the National Children's Alliance, the "Heavy Hitter" Award for exemplary service for the betterment of independent pharmacy, and the Distinguished Alumnus

Award from his *alma mater*, Carson-Newman University, and in 2013, he was named a Council of State Governments Toll Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Doug Overbey has practiced law for thirty-eight years, cofounding the firm of Robertson Overbey in 1982, and served two terms on the Blount County Commission; and

WHEREAS, a trusted and well-respected expert in his field, Senator Overbey frequently lectures for continuing legal education programs; he has presented the Knoxville Bar Association's annual "Legislative Update" for sixteen years, has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Tennessee College of Law, and has published articles in the *Anglican Digest*; and

WHEREAS, he expresses his faith as a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Senator Doug Overbey is perhaps most grateful for the love of his wife, Kay; daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen and Ryan Thomas, Hannah and Kris Yarlett, and Elizabeth and Matt Thomason; and grandchildren, Anna Kathleen Thomason, Paul Russell Thomason, and Collins Douglas Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Senator Doug Overbey is wholly committed to the precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary service to this body; 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 honor and commend Senator J. Douglas Overbey upon his illustrious tenure in the General Assembly and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

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