

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 807

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to commend Senator Lee Harris for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Senate.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body honor those fellow legislators who performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lee Harris of Memphis is one such distinguished public servant who served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and ability; and

WHEREAS, Lee Harris distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 29th Senate District, whom he served as a member of the 109th and 110th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Harris is a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Memphis, having previously served with distinction as the District 7 member on the Memphis City Council; and

WHEREAS, a proud product of Memphis City Schools, Lee Harris received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College and his Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School; and

WHEREAS, throughout his service in the Senate, Lee Harris was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during his time in the General Assembly, Senator Harris rendered sterling service as a member of the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Government Operations Committee, the Joint Government Operations

Education, Health, and General Welfare Subcommittee, and the Joint Government Operations Judiciary and Government Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the 2nd Vice-Chair of the Senate Calendar Committee, Senator Harris served as the Senate Minority Leader of the 109th and 110th General Assemblies; he is the first African-American lawmaker of either party to hold a leadership position in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Lee Harris is a family man, professor, and civic leader, and he has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and leading by example; and

WHEREAS, he gives back to his community through his work with the Memphis Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Downtown Memphis Commission, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, the Frayser Exchange Club, the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association, and the Tennessee Equality Project; a Frayser Neighborhood 3V Leader, he served on the Board of Directors of the Memphis Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division in 2005, and he served as the Goodwill Homes Community Services Inc., Head Start Policy Committee Chairperson from 2004 until 2007; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Senator Harris is the recipient of the 2012 Historic Preservation Award and the 2014 African American Male Image Award, which was presented by the Hobson-Goodlow Foundation and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity; named "Man of Excellence" by the *Tri-State Defender*, he was also named a February 2015 Tennessee Equality Project Champion of Equality and the 2013 Public Official of the Year by the West Branch of the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a public servant, Lee Harris worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lee Harris is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary tenure in 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 hereby honor Senator Lee Harris for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the Senate, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 29th Senate District, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued 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.