

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 820

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William C. Koch, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those jurists who have performed with uncommon devotion and probity throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Justice William C. Koch, Jr., is one such individual who, in July of this year, will retire from the Tennessee Supreme Court and embark upon a new career path as the Dean of the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his retirement, Justice Koch will have served for three decades on the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Trinity College in Connecticut in 1969, Justice Koch attended the Vanderbilt School of Law, from which he earned a Juris Doctorate in 1972. He later returned to the classroom, earning an LL.M. in judicial process from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Justice Koch rendered sterling service as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee between 1972 and 1976, when he was named Senior Assistant Attorney General. In 1977 he was named Deputy Attorney General, and in 1979, Justice Koch was chosen to serve as the Legal Advisor to Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, between 1979 and 1981, the Honorable William Koch served with acumen and alacrity as the Commissioner of Personnel for the State of Tennessee, and between 1981 and 1984, he stood as Counsel to Governor Alexander; and

WHEREAS, he was subsequently appointed to the Court of Appeals, and he served on the court for the next twenty-three years, the final three of which Justice Koch sat as the Presiding Judge of the Middle Section of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bredesen appointed the Honorable William Koch to the Tennessee Supreme Court in June of 2007; since that time, he has upheld the highest tenets of the law while standing as a beacon of unwavering dedication to judicial excellence; and

WHEREAS, an active member of a number of professional organizations, Justice Koch has played a large role in the growth and success of the America Inns of Court movement in the State. There are, at present, eight American Inns of Court in Tennessee, and Justice Koch was a founding member of two of them and assisted in the creation of five others. He also lent his leadership in service on the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation and currently serves as the President of the Foundation's Leadership Council; and

WHEREAS, Justice Koch is also a member of the American Bar Association, the Appellate Judges Conference, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Nashville Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Tennessee Judicial Conference Foundation, the Tennessee Bar Foundation, and the Nashville Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Justice Koch has served as the chair of a number of judicial and state boards, has shared his expertise and knowledge as an instructor on many occasions, and has published opinions on a wide array of legal matters throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, he also dedicates his time and energies to a number of community and civic organizations, including serving on the boards of the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, the Honorable William Koch was named the Nashville School of Law's Fourth Year Instructor of the Year three times, has been the commencement speaker at the Nashville School of Law on six occasions, was named one of the 500 Leading Judges in America, was the American Board of Trial Advocates Tennessee

Appellate Judge of the Year in 2002, and garnered the Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Jr. Excellence in Volunteer Leadership Award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Deborah Patterson Koch; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Justice Koch has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bench and the bar alike; 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 extend to Justice William C. Koch, Jr. our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from the bench 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.