

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 820

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize David W. Purkey on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, David W. Purkey has served with distinction as a member of the Hamblen County Election Commission, from which position he will retire on January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished tenure, Mr. Purkey has provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance to the good people of Hamblen County; and

WHEREAS, David Purkey received his bachelor's degree in public health from East Tennessee State University and his master's degree in public health from the University of Tennessee; he is also a trained Emergency Medical Technician, a certification he has held for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, a proud military veteran, he honorably served as an officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve for eight years; and

WHEREAS, dedicating himself to State and local government and emergency management, Mr. Purkey has served as a 911 dispatcher, Morristown-Hamblen County Emergency Management director, and police accreditation manager for the City of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, he was assigned to the Nashville and Fall Branch districts during his tenure as a Tennessee State trooper, and he served as a special agent in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in the Chattanooga region; and

WHEREAS, appointed Hamblen County mayor in 1995, David Purkey was elected to that same office for four consecutive terms; when he retired in 2010, Hamblen County had historically low property tax rates and the highest bond rating on record, and an audit

recognized the county's record-setting rainy day reserve fund as well as its support of the largest building program in its history, which addressed the needs of the Hamblen County Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purkey was named a homeland security advisor and assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security in 2011; under his leadership, the Office of Homeland Security was transformed into a proactive agency, overseeing school security plans, training citizens and law enforcement agencies in active shooter response, and leading the State's efforts to combat cybercrime; and

WHEREAS, a respected and trusted leader, David Purkey served in a dual role as director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency from 2014 until 2016 in addition to his duties with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purkey was appointed to head the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security by Governor Bill Haslam in September 2016, and he guided the department with intellect, drive, and commitment until his retirement from that post in 2018; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and honors, David Purkey received the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Service Award in 2012, and he was inducted into the Morristown-Hamblen High School West Hall of Fame in 2011; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure on the Hamblen County Election Commission, Mr. Purkey has carried out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate for the citizens of Hamblen County, David Purkey has compiled a singular record of success during his exemplary public service career, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we extend to David W. Purkey 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.