

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 898

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Justice Gary Wade on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to honor an outstanding individual who has performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Gary Wade is one such estimable individual, who has most recently served with probity as the dean of the Duncan School of Law at Lincoln Memorial University and will be taking his much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Sevierville, Justice Wade graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1973 and soon thereafter joined a law firm in his hometown; he also worked as the city law director for the City of Pigeon Forge; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-six, Justice Gary Wade successfully ran for elected office as alderman of Sevierville, and two years later, he was elected mayor; for the next ten years, he continued practicing law while attending meetings in the evenings to fulfill his duties as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Justice Wade was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1987 by Governor Ned McWherter, a position he held until 2006, when Governor Phil Bredesen appointed him to serve on the Tennessee Supreme Court; he served as Chief Justice from 2012 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2015, Justice Gary Wade was named vice president and dean of the Duncan School of Law at Lincoln Memorial University; during his tenure, the school was granted approval from the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners and full approval by the American Bar Association (ABA), and 93.75

percent of the school's graduates from 2016 to 2018 passed the bar exam, significantly exceeding the standard set by the ABA; and

WHEREAS, Justice Wade exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Justice Wade is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Sandy, and their three children; and

WHEREAS, for nearly half a century, Justice Gary Wade has distinguished himself as a civic-minded leader, judge, and academic who is committed to the legal profession, and he should be honored on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Justice Gary Wade on his exemplary tenure as dean of the Duncan School of Law at Lincoln Memorial University and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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