

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 903

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., for his exemplary service to Tennessee and the Second Congressional District.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this body should recognize a dedicated, effective, and long-serving elected official and statesman from Tennessee, namely Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, having proudly represented Tennessee's Second Congressional District for thirty years, Congressman Duncan has announced his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, after building a legacy in public service that is second to none; and

WHEREAS, first elected to the United States Congress in 1988, Congressman Duncan previously served on the Natural Resources Committee and continues to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and

WHEREAS, he is currently the vice chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and formerly served as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, the Water Resources Subcommittee, and the Highways and Transit Subcommittee; under his leadership of these committees, the House of Representatives passed the Reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration bill, the Water Resources Development Act, and the Highway bill; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan helped secure significant federal funding for the McGhee Tyson Airport, Knoxville Transit Center, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, National Safe Skies Alliance, Foothills Parkway, Zoo Knoxville, Historic Tennessee Theatre, University of Tennessee Medical Center's Neonatal Unit, and McGhee Tyson National Guard

Base, to name a few; he also passed legislation to establish the Howard H. Baker, Jr., Center for Public Policy on the campus of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished legislative career, Congressman Duncan has strived to cut government waste, reduce taxes, and limit bureaucratic red tape; nationally recognized as a bulldog on these issues by various organizations and national news media, he was named the most fiscally conservative member of the U.S. House of Representatives by the National Taxpayers Union in 2011 and is one of the few members of Congress who has received the Citizens Against Government Waste Super Hero Award; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan has fought for what he believes in: fiscal conservatism, smaller government, and a more humble foreign policy that puts America first; an independent thinker and a true patriot, he has utilized a no-nonsense, principled approach to public service; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties in Washington, Congressman Duncan has worked tirelessly in his district, which includes Knox, Blount, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Bradley, Grainger, and Claiborne counties and part of Campbell and Jefferson counties; and

WHEREAS, constituent service has always been a priority with Congressman Duncan, and he has built a strong reputation in that area; he and his staff have assisted thousands and thousands of individuals and businesses with various issues; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan has met with thousands of constituents in his Washington, D.C., office, leading Capitol tour groups himself and participating in the annual AAA Safety Patrol trips for fifth-graders; and

WHEREAS, he has held countless Constituent Days, attended thousands of public events, and visited and spoken to all grade levels of students in schools across his district; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Congressman Duncan's stellar representation of the Second District, several edifices and entities have been named in his honor, including the John J. Duncan, Jr. Knoxville Station Transit Center, the Lincoln Memorial University Duncan College of Law, and the Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr. Loudon County Veterans Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean who hails from a family renowned for public service, John J. Duncan, Jr., is the son of the late Congressman John J. Duncan, Sr., and Lois Swisher Duncan; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan was raised in Knoxville and attended public schools there; as a young boy, he worked for the Knoxville Smokies as a batboy, ball bagger, scoreboard operator, and ultimately public address announcer; and

WHEREAS, a supporter of Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign, Congressman Duncan sent the first check he earned as a grocery bagger to the Goldwater campaign and subsequently rode a train to California to serve as a page at the Republican National Convention; and

WHEREAS, he received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Tennessee and later earned a law degree from George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan proudly served his country in the United States Army National Guard and the Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Duncan began his private law practice in Knoxville with the late Zane Daniel in the firm Daniel and Duncan; he was appointed a State Criminal Court Judge by then Governor Lamar Alexander in 1981 and served on the bench until he was elected to the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, after thirty years of devoted service to the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, Congressman Duncan has made the decision to retire in order to spend more time with his family, which includes his wife, Lynn Hawkins Duncan; children, Tara Duncan Richardson and her husband, Bryn, Whitney Duncan Brown and her husband, Jason, John J. Duncan III and his wife, Jennifer, and Zane Joseph Duncan and his wife, Hallie; and his grandchildren, Beau and Hailey Richardson, Emma, Maclain, and Harper Brown, Charlie and Jimmy Duncan, and Zane and Miles Duncan; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Duncan has set the standard for present and future Tennesseans serving in the U.S. Congress, and his legacy of government of, by, and for the people is the crowning achievement of his brilliant career; 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 Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr., for his exemplary service to Tennessee and her Second Congressional District as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, commend his ongoing commitment to the prosperity of all Tennesseans, and wish him all the best 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.