

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 955

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend and honor Lawrence Hahn for more than half a century of service with the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Lawrence Hahn of Oak Ridge, a highly respected member of his community who has dedicated himself to improving the lives of young people through his service and leadership with the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hahn's peerless tenure with the Boys & Girls Club began in 1953, when he, as a sophomore at East Tennessee State University, began working at the Johnson City Boys Club; in 1958, he was named the charter executive director of the Boys Club of Oak Ridge, making him the youngest Boys Club executive director in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Club was formed in an approximately 1,200-square-foot abandoned, dilapidated wooden structure; through Mr. Hahn's leadership and drive, a large and productive network of volunteers and influential benefactors came together and greatly improved the club's facilities, ultimately resulting in the construction of a modern edifice with a gymnasium, learning center, and four athletic fields; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Lawrence Hahn founded the club's Alumni Association, which has grown into one of the largest and most productive club alumni associations in the nation, giving hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of service in support of the Oak Ridge Boys & Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, as the club's executive director, Mr. Hahn was a member of the Boys & Girls Club of America Professional Association, served three terms as executive secretary of the Tennessee Area Council of the Boys & Girls Club of Tennessee, and served on and chaired numerous state and national area council committees; and

WHEREAS, during his fifty-one years as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge, Lawrence Hahn exhibited a rare devotion to serving the young people of his community; his diligence and profound commitment to the club's mission resulted in thousands of lives being touched, springboarding young men and women into brighter futures; and

WHEREAS, all told, Mr. Hahn gave fifty-six years of continuous service to Boys & Girls Clubs of America throughout Tennessee before taking his retirement in August 2009; since that time, he has continued to serve as a volunteer worker and consultant and has been appointed by the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge's board of directors as executive director emeritus; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mr. Hahn's lifelong commitment to the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge, the club has been named in his honor, an enduring testament to his legacy of leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Hahn's vast record of community service also includes longtime membership with the Oak Ridge Rotary Club and the Loyal Order of the Moose; serving as a charter and current member of the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame board of directors; and accepting numerous appointments to ad hoc committees by Oak Ridge city officials and the local board of education; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for his important contributions, Mr. Hahn has received the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA) Man and Boy Award, the BGCA Bronze Keystone Award, the BGCA Light the Path Award, the BGCA National Service to Youth Award, and the BGCA National Professional Service Award; and

WHEREAS, his other accolades include the Rotary Vocational Service Award, the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Service Award, the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football League Foundation and Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award, the Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow Award, and the Outstanding Tennessean Award, presented by Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many worthy endeavors, Mr. Hahn has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Barbara, and their three children, David, James, and Eva; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Hahn epitomizes the spirit and commitment to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; for more than half a century, he served as a father figure to so many, guiding and improving the lives of several generations of young people; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge and applaud one of this State's most noteworthy citizens for his dedication to the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and honor Lawrence Hahn for his lifetime of service to the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge and the State of Tennessee, extending to him our best wishes for much continued success.

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.