

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1210

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Frederick H. Forster on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Frederick H. Forster is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for a number of years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Blount Partnership; he will soon take a much deserved retirement from this position; and

WHEREAS, Blount Partnership consists of the Blount Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Development Board of Blount County, the Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Blount County Chamber Foundation; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Knoxville West High School in 1964, Mr. Forster matriculated to the University of the South, from which he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in 1968. He then attended Troy State University, from which he earned his Master of Science degree in Foundations of Education in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster was a proud and valorous member of this nation's armed services, and compiled a sterling career of military service; and

WHEREAS, Major General Forster first entered the United States Air Force in September of 1968 after receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of the South; and

WHEREAS, a talented pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight experience, he served eight years of extended active duty as a T-38 instructor pilot, a KC-135 pilot and instructor pilot,

and as an operations plans officer at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand before joining the Tennessee Air National Guard in October of 1976; and

WHEREAS, General Forster, after assignments as group plans officer and aircraft maintenance officer, was assigned command of the 134th Air Refueling Group in December of 1987. Rising steadily through the ranks, General Forster was promoted to Colonel in July of 1987, to Brigadier General in November of 1998, and to Major General in July of 2002; and

WHEREAS, he honorably served as the Chief of Staff of the Air National Guard from November of 1998 until July of 2002, when he was named to the post of Assistant Adjutant General for Air for the State of Tennessee, a position in which he served with acumen and alacrity until his retirement in May of 2003; and

WHEREAS, throughout his professional military career, General Forster exhibited a relentless pursuit of excellence and knowledge. He was a Distinguished Graduate of the Squadron Officer School in 1971, attended a seminar at the Air Command and Staff College in 1982, earned Commandant's List honors at a seminar at the Army Command General Staff College in 1982, attended a seminar at the Air War College in 1986, completed the Senior Seminar for the Department of State in 1994, and attended the United States Chamber Institute for Organizational Management in 2004; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, General Frederick Forster earned a number of military decorations during his long and storied career, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal, among a host of other awards, medals, and ribbons; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster is an active and important part of his community, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the National Guard Association of Tennessee, which he served as President, the Air Force Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kiwanis Club of Alcoa, the Knoxville Civitan Club, Alpha Tau Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Blue Key, and lending support to the Boy Scouts of America Great Smokey Mountain Council, which selected him as the Citizen of the Year in 1992 and the recipient of the Silver

Beaver Award in 2007, and the Volunteer Chapter of Public Relations Society of America, which bestowed upon him the Community Service Award in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forster has dedicated his leadership abilities to a number of civic organizations, serving on the boards of directors of United Way of Blount County, Technology 2020, Tennessee's Resource Valley, the Blount Memorial Hospital Foundation, Goodwill Industries of Knoxville, the Dogwood Arts Festival of Knoxville, the Blount County Chamber Foundation, the Bank of East Tennessee, Youth Service USA of Knoxville, First Tennessee Bank, and the Blount County Education Foundation; he has rendered sterling service as the chairman of a number of organizations, including Nine Counties One Vision, the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and the Campaign Committee of the United Way of Blount County, and is a graduate of Leadership Blount County and Leadership Knoxville; he served on the Maryville-Alcoa Blount County Recreation and Parks Commission and was a member of the Chancellor's Associates of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, he is a devout member of the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, which he has served for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster is also devoted to family values of the highest order, and is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Carolyn; his daughters and son-in-law, Joy and Will Carver and Rebecca Forster; and his grandson, Drew Carver; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forster exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Frederick Forster has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Frederick H. Forster 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.