

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1234

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Tim Burchett for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tim Burchett is one such distinguished public servant who has served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Burchett has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 7th Senatorial District, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Tim Burchett has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of Senate District 7, who have evinced their firm belief in Senator Burchett's abilities as a legislator by electing him to serve three terms as their senator, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, as a Senate member of the 101st through the 106th General Assemblies, Tim Burchett has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who has always voted his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Senator Burchett was born on August 25, 1964 in Knoxville to career educators, Joyce and the late Charlie Burchett, who taught him the value of hard work and service to others; and

WHEREAS, his inspirational mother, Joyce Burchett, not only wholly dedicated herself to the job of raising her children with the utmost character, motherly love, and moral integrity, but she was also an extremely talented and compassionate educator who devoted her career to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, his WWII combat veteran father, the late Charlie Burchett, was a stalwart student advocate, who built a reputation as a tough, but fair disciplinarian during his meritorious forty-six year tenure as the Dean of Students at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, both of Senator Burchett's parents are renowned for their strong commitment to community and public service, with his father deftly presiding over the Knoxville Board of Education during the tumultuous years of school desegregation; and

WHEREAS, an education major and president of the Sigma Chi fraternity, Tim Burchett earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Senator Burchett currently renders sterling service as the Secretary of the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee and as a member of the Senate Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee and the Senate State and Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served with distinction in his role as the Deputy Speaker of the Senate in the 105th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Senator Burchett has given his time and energies to many community, civic, and charitable organizations, including rendering sterling service as a board member of the Knoxville Union Rescue Mission, the Sertoma Center, the American Kidney Foundation, and the James White Fort Association; a member of the Board of Directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee; an ex-officio Trustee of the East Tennessee Regional Juvenile Service Center; a member of the Commission on Holocaust Education; and an active participant in the Tennessee Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Statewide Planning and Policy Council, the West Knoxville Republican Club, the Greater Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership, and the Tennessee Health Equity Commission; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Tim Burchett is an active member of the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, a talented, astute, and productive professional, Senator Burchett also serves with acumen and alacrity as a businessman in the Knoxville community; and

WHEREAS, Tim Burchett has received numerous awards and honors throughout his illustrious career, including the Guardian of Small Business Award, 2002 Tennessee Dispensing Opticians Association Legislator of the Year, 2002 County Officials Association of Tennessee Outstanding State Senator, 2002 Tennessee PTA Outstanding Legislator of the Year, 2002 Tennessee Development District Association Legislator of the Year, 2002 Selective Service System Meritorious Service Award, 2004 Men's Health Legislator of the Year, 2005 Defender of the American Dream Award, 2006 Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Outstanding Legislator Award, 2006 Champion for Children Award, 2007 Tennessee Community Organizations Legislator of the Year Award, 2008 Knox County Council PTA Outstanding Elected Official, 2008 National Alliance on Mental Illness Legislator of the Year, 2008 Men's Health Legislator of the Year, 2009 Tennessee PTA Sigrid Steward Legislator of the Year, and 2009 East Tennessee Development District Legislator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in the Senate, Senator Burchett was an outstanding member of the House of Representatives, honorably representing House District 18 throughout the 99th and 100th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career as a public servant, Tim Burchett has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, having proved himself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Senator Burchett is eager to offer himself for public service in a new capacity and is seeking the office of Knox County Mayor this year; and

WHEREAS, more important to this ardent motorcyclist than the many awards he has received for his legislative service is the approbation of his colleagues; Senator Burchett is "a statesman with a common touch" according to Representative Joe Armstrong of Knoxville, Chair of the House Health and Human Resources Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Randy McNally, Chair of Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, praised Senator Burchett's extraordinary abilities and rare humility: "Senator Burchett is a very effective legislator, but prefers to defer credit to others, and he has a self-effacing manner in general. He is still popular with his former colleagues in the House and ably represents the Senate as a mediator in negotiations with the House. He has been an effective gatekeeper to the budget process through his service as Chair of the Senate's Budget Subcommittee. He is naturally friendly and takes the time to care about people's lives, from the Governor to the maintenance staff in the Capitol."; and

WHEREAS, Senator Joe Haynes has praised Senator Burchett in glowing terms: "Tim is one of the good guys, and I will miss his ability to work compromises between legislators. He's got an uncanny ability of combining common sense and intellect in a very modest and effective way. When he gives you his word, you don't have to check back, because he will do what he says he will do. A few years ago I came to realize that when Tim met someone who he thought needed an attorney, he referred them to me. As a result, I have met some unusual people! Since he made me his attorney several years ago, I will miss my favorite client. I'm just not sure that I can get used to calling him 'Mayor' but I will work on it!"; and

WHEREAS, none other than the Dean of the Senate, Senator Douglas Henry, has said of our colleague: "Senator Burchett is lively, intelligent, humorous, thought-provoking, and a pleasure to have around. The Senate will not be the same without him, and I shall certainly miss him when he is gone. Knox County is in for a treat."; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson has summarized his positive impact by saying: "Senator Burchett serves his community with hard work, sincerity, and humor. His work as a champion and voice for families and citizens who have no voice is unsurpassed. Tim's presence in the Tennessee General Assembly will be sorely missed by many, and particularly by me."; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Tim Burchett is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Allison; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tim Burchett is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his distinguished tenure in this body; 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 hereby honor Senator Tim Burchett for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 7th Senatorial District, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors in county government.

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