

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1238

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend Thomas Austin Watkins for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Austin Watkins is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Senator Roy Herron; Mr. Watkins's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators he assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a magna cum laude graduate of Lipscomb University (LU), where he was highly regarded by his peers, Thomas Watkins earned an exemplary grade point average of 3.87 while majoring in Political Science, minoring in Biology and History of Ideas, and participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including taking part in the LU Honors Program and LU Intramural Soccer and serving as the Associate Justice of the first Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court, Vice-President of LU Phi Alpha Theta, and Treasurer of LU Student Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to community and public service, Mr. Watkins has endeavored to serve his fellow citizens through volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, the Community Emergency Response Team, and mission and service trips to Honduras; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins is also an active and devout member of his church and rendered sterling service as the student leader of his church's college group; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his singular academic achievements, Thomas Watkins has received numerous honors and accolades, including the John W. Burgess Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Political Science, the Maiden Memorial Scholarship, and the Student Alumni Association's Most Outstanding Student Award; and

WHEREAS, he was also chosen by the Office of Admissions as the “Most Likely to Succeed,” served on the LU Trustee Scholarship Committee, was included in Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities, and gained recognition as a Lipscomb University Presidential Scholar; and

WHEREAS, before beginning his outstanding tenure as a legislative intern, Mr. Watkins amassed a great body of work experience, including service as a sales specialist for Recreational Equipment, Inc., a student recruiter for the LU Office of Admissions, a student intern for the Louisiana House of Representatives, and as an Intentional Community Resident; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexities of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, Thomas Watkins brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2010 session of the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2010 legislative session, this remarkable young man has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Watkins has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; 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 commend Thomas Austin Watkins for outstanding service as a legislative intern for Senator Roy Herron and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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