

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1502

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Brian Noland on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as president of East Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a gifted administrator who has provided outstanding leadership at Northeast Tennessee's flagship university for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, since assuming the reins of leadership as president of East Tennessee State University (ETSU) on January 15, 2012, Dr. Brian Noland has dedicated himself to improving the lives of the people of the Northeast Tennessee region; ten years later, he remains committed to serving the campus and community and ensuring that ETSU is a place where people come first; and

WHEREAS, since arriving at ETSU, President Noland has impacted the lives and careers of tens of thousands of Tennesseans and presided over the conferral of almost 34,000 degrees to 30,685 students; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Noland's assured leadership, ETSU achieved the highest retention and graduation rates since the institution's founding in 1911, and the University has added fifty-one new academic programs on his watch; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noland has worked assiduously to attain record financial support from both donors and the State of Tennessee during the last decade, which efforts led to the ongoing transformation of the campus through major capital investments in new and existing buildings, including the Martin Center for the Arts, William B. Greene Jr. Football Stadium, D.P. Culp Student Center, Lamb Hall, Bishop Hall, Millennium Center, Academic Building, Brown Hall, and Integrated Health Sciences Building; and

WHEREAS, five major centers have been established during his tenure, including the Center for Rural Health Research, Center for Excellence in Inflammation, Infectious Disease, and Immunity, ETSU Ballard Health Strong Brain Institute, Addiction Science Center, and Tennessee Center for Nursing Advancement; and

WHEREAS, due to Dr. Noland's outreach efforts, the enrollment of veterans and military-affiliated students at ETSU has nearly doubled in the last decade, leading to the establishment of the Military Affiliated Student Resource Center in 2018; he also worked in partnership with military and State leaders to save ETSU's ROTC Program, the Buccaneer Battalion, from closure in 2013; and

WHEREAS, President Noland has reinvigorated the student experience at ETSU and generated new opportunities for student and community engagement with the relaunch of the football program and marching band and the relocation of men's basketball to the Freedom Hall Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noland has united the ETSU campus around his vision to "paint the region blue and gold" by unveiling a new visual identity for ETSU, thus expanding displays of pride throughout Northeast Tennessee, across the State, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, ETSU has earned many notable rankings under President Noland's exemplary leadership and is ranked first in Tennessee for both its RN to BSN Program and its Digital Medicine Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noland takes great pride in ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine ranking third in the nation for the number of graduates practicing in underserved areas and the increase in its class size to seventy-nine students beginning with the Class of 2025; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Brian Noland is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife and the First Lady of ETSU, Donna Noland, and their son, Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noland has been instrumental in bringing growth, prosperity, and new and improved educational programs and facilities to ETSU over the past ten years, and he is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. Brian Noland on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as president of East Tennessee State University, salute his leadership and ongoing commitment to the people of ETSU, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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.