

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1658

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Christine Hunt of Chattanooga on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding Tennesseans who have served with great ability and dedication throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Christine Hunt took her much-deserved retirement on April 15, 2021, as Lead Horticulturist of the Tennessee Aquarium after thirty years of distinguished service with the Aquarium, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hunt was one of the Aquarium's longest-tenured staff members, having been hired June 10, 1991, more than ten months before the first guests would walk through the doors of the River Journey building; and

WHEREAS, after earning her degree in environmental science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Christine Hunt took on the role as a native plant specialist at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center; she had been working in this position for approximately one year when she saw a newspaper ad seeking applicants for the Tennessee Aquarium; and

WHEREAS, after being hired by the Aquarium, Ms. Hunt's pre-visitor responsibilities included consulting with designers on the look of smaller exhibits, embarking on fact-finding missions to other institutions for advice on indoor plant care, and overseeing the planting of the Aquarium's living forest galleries, including lowering towering native trees into place; and

WHEREAS, as Lead Horticulturist, Christine Hunt has made indelible contributions to the Aquarium, and her legacy will continue to positively impact staff and patrons alike; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Hunt has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, during her three-decade career, Christine Hunt has impacted not only the twenty-five million guests who have visited the Aquarium but also communities well beyond the bounds of Chattanooga; 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 Christine Hunt on the occasion of her retirement, commending her exceptional service with the Tennessee Aquarium, saluting her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extending to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.