

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8006

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor Commissioner Tony Parker on the occasion of his retirement from the Tennessee Department of Correction.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tony Parker has served the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) with distinction for thirty-eight years in a range of capacities and is taking a much-deserved retirement from his duties; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Parker began his career as a correctional officer and rose through the ranks to commissioner, following his initial appointment by former Governor Bill Haslam in 2016 and reappointment by Governor Bill Lee in 2019; and

WHEREAS, prior to being named commissioner, Tony Parker served as assistant commissioner, correctional administrator, and warden, among other roles; since 2016, he has adroitly led the agency's more than 6,000 employees tasked with supervision of over 20,000 incarcerated individuals and 70,000 people on community supervision; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Parker, who also serves as president of the American Correctional Association, counts among the agency's accomplishments during his tenure the passage and implementation of the Public Safety Act of 2016 and a consistent decline in recidivism for individuals leaving TDOC custody, as well as a reduction of individuals returning to incarceration for technical violations; the creation of Day Reporting Centers as an alternative to incarceration; and salary increases for correctional staff; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tony Parker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career with the Tennessee Department of Correction, Tony Parker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public as well; 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 extend to Commissioner Tony Parker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, offering our deepest gratitude for his thirty-eight years of dedicated service with the Tennessee Department of Correction and wishing him 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.