

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8009

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend R. Larry Smith upon being named the NAIFA-Tennessee 2020 Insurance Professional of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should recognize those exemplary professionals who have worked their way to the very pinnacle of their chosen professions; and

WHEREAS, R. Larry Smith is one such commendable person, who was recently named the NAIFA-Tennessee 2020 Insurance Professional of the Year by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), the organization's most prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, not based on sales alone, the Insurance Professional of the Year accolade is given annually to a top salesperson who also promotes NAIFA and makes a significant contribution to their community and the life insurance industry; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville insurance broker, R. Larry Smith has served as an insurance agency director since 1980 and has consistently demonstrated uncommon devotion to his industry; he has been honored by NAIFA numerous times throughout his career and is one of only two percent of insurance sales professionals who have qualified as members of the Million Dollar Roundtable, of which he has been a member for thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to running his successful insurance business, Mr. Smith has represented NAIFA at the state, regional, and national levels, serving as president locally and as East Tennessee regional vice president; he has also served as secretary and treasurer of the organization, as well as the State president and chairman of the State board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science; he went on to study the

effects of hot water discharge on area fish and aquatic life at TVA Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division from 1975 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith worked for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency from 1976 to 1980, serving in the fisheries division and as a public relations spokesperson. He taught hunter safety to more than 500 students and their family members; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, he founded the R. Larry Smith & Associates Insurance Agency; and

WHEREAS, he has served on more than thirty nonprofit boards throughout the State, including the Knox County Republican Party, which he served as chairman; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Alumni Chapter; American Cancer Society; Dogwood Arts Festival; Leadership Knoxville; and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America; of the thirty nonprofit boards on which he has served, he became president of twenty-two; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his board service, he was a UT Chancellor's Associate and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, R. Larry Smith served on the Knox County Commission for eight years from 2006 to 2014, two years of which he served as vice chair; and

WHEREAS, a devout man of Christian faith, Mr. Smith is an active member and acting treasurer of Fountain United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, he is the loving husband of his wife, Sharon, proud father of three children, and doting grandfather of four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, R. Larry Smith enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling, serving as a community activist, and establishing a University of Tennessee men's basketball museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, R. Larry Smith 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; 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 and commend R. Larry Smith upon being named the NAIFA-Tennessee 2020 Insurance Professional of the Year and extend to him our warmest wishes for 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.