

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8021 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Don and Pat Merzlak of Greene County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in honoring those outstanding individuals who go above and beyond in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, two such exceptional community leaders are Don and Pat Merzlak of Greene County, who were recently presented the 2020 Book of Golden Deeds by the Greeneville Exchange Club in recognition of their advocacy for children; and

WHEREAS, receipt of the Book of Golden Deeds is the keystone of the Exchange Club's annual banquet and is awarded annually to those individuals specially recognized for their impact on the community; and

WHEREAS, retiring to Greene County in 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Merzlak have spent the last two decades working tirelessly as volunteer court system advocates for local children experiencing abuse or neglect through the CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) program; and

WHEREAS, before their retirement, Pat Merzlak was a hospital nurse, and Don Merzlak owned an electrical business after a tenure as a paratrooper in the military and served as a basketball coach and football referee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Merzlak have been married for sixty-eight years and are the proud parents of two children and five adopted Indian children; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Merzlak was named CASA Volunteer of the Year in 2008 by the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize this outstanding couple on this most auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Don and Pat Merzlak upon their receipt of the 2020 Book of Golden Deeds by the Greeneville Exchange Club, commend their decades of service to the children of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in all their 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.