

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8022 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Benjamin D. Caton III on his selection as the Tennessee Music Teacher Association's 2020 Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benjamin D. Caton III is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caton, who recently retired after a forty-six-year tenure as a faculty member at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), has been named Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association (TMTA), a most befitting honor that recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many students; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected music educator, Dr. Benjamin Caton has taught at all levels from first grade to graduate-level courses, and his articles have appeared in *Clavier*, *Music Educators Journal*, *American Music Teacher*, and *The Tennessee Musician*; and

WHEREAS, a Newport native, Dr. Benjamin Caton attended Newport Grammar School and Cocke County High School, from which he earned the John Phillip Sousa Award while playing trombone in the school's band; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, he obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from ETSU and his master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University, as well as a Pedagogy/Musicianship Certificate from the Kodaly Musical Training Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caton has a long and distinguished record of service at the state and local levels of the TMTA, including terms as president, recording secretary, and collegiate

audition chair, and he served two terms as a member of the music advisory panel of the Tennessee Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he has been active with the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) on the regional and national levels, including the MTNA Southern Division, which he served as president, and the MTNA board of directors; during his ten years as a board member, he held the office of president and numerous other roles; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Caton was the inaugural TMTA Distinguished Award Recipient in 2004, and he received the ETSU Distinguished Faculty Award in Service in 2014 and the MTNA Distinguished Service Award in 2017; he was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow and received an Award of Excellence from the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs Foundation for the Advancement of Music; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caton has served as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benjamin Caton truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; 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 hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Benjamin D. Caton III on being chosen as the Tennessee Music Teacher Association's 2020 Teacher of the Year, commend his exceptional service to the citizens of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best 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.