

SENATE RESOLUTION 19

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James L. Clayton, 2017 Governor's Arts Leadership Award recipient.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize those exemplary persons who, through their abiding commitment to excellence, have made significant contributions to the arts and brought national acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is James L. Clayton of Knoxville; on March 7, in a ceremony at the Tennessee Executive Residence Conservation Hall in Nashville, Governor Bill Haslam will present the 2017 Governor's Arts Leadership Award to Mr. Clayton for his service to the arts in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, established by the Tennessee Arts Commission in 1971, the Governor's Arts Awards recognize extraordinary artistic and cultural contributions and achievements by individuals or organizations with state, regional, and national impact; it is the State's highest honor in the arts; and

WHEREAS, born the son of a sharecropper in 1934, James L. Clayton is a McNairy County native who wanted to be a country music singer as a child; after his high school graduation, he moved to Memphis to perform in local honky tonks and earn his degrees in engineering and law; and

WHEREAS, while he was a student, Mr. Clayton began a used car business that grew into Knoxville's Clayton Automobiles, which he operated with his brother, Joe; James Clayton branched into the mobile home business in 1966 and built it into the United States' largest producer and seller of manufactured housing, a publicly traded company that was sold to Berkshire Hathaway for \$1.7 billion in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, Mr. Clayton was the largest single contributor to the construction of the Knoxville Museum of Arts with a gift of \$3.25 million; the landmark Clayton Building is named in his honor, and he remains the museum's largest single annual donor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clayton created the Clayton Family Foundation in 1990; the Foundation is a vital source of support for cultural, educational, and human services programs in the region and played a pivotal role in the creation of the Clayton Arts Center, a state-of-the-art performing and visual arts facility on the campus of Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, James Clayton supports the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and its annual Clayton Holiday Concert, a much-beloved, decades-old family tradition; he is a former board president and continues to serve on the nominating committee; and

WHEREAS, James L. Clayton is wholly committed to "giving back to communities that supported the Clayton family as we 'learned and earned,'" calling it his "dream fulfilled"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend James L. Clayton, the 2017 Governor's Arts Leadership Award recipient and extend to him our best wishes for success in all of 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.