

SENATE RESOLUTION 107

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize Cathy Cate on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Cate is one such estimable person, who has served with distinction since 2013 as the founding executive director of Leadership Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, having led the organization with the utmost dedication, ability, and integrity, Ms. Cate has taken her well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Tennessee was founded in 2013 as an initiative of the Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership at Lipscomb University, under the College of Leadership and Public Service; the initiative was born from the need for a statewide program that could convene leaders from across the geographic and industry boundaries that have historically existed across the State's three Grand Divisions; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural class of thirty participants in Leadership Tennessee's Signature Program began in the fall of 2013 and completed the initial program in June 2014; and

WHEREAS, along with its Signature Program, Leadership Tennessee offers leaders the opportunity to further enhance their professional skills through such innovative programming as Leadership Tennessee NEXT, the Community Engagement Program, and Vote Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Tennessee is committed to serving as a catalyst for positive change and counts among its participants fourteen current or former members of the General Assembly, twenty-three current or past members of the governor's cabinet, three Tennessee Supreme Court Justices, one U.S. Attorney, one Tennessee Attorney General, a Brigadier General, and a number of locally elected officials; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected leader, Cathy Cate grew up in Maryville and graduated from Maryville High School; she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, before becoming the founding executive director of Leadership Tennessee, Ms. Cate served as the executive director of Leadership Blount; she has also served on the statewide board of Tennessee Association of Community Leadership and East Tennessee Regional Leadership Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Cathy Cate successfully created the framework for a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to expand the work of Leadership Tennessee to broader audiences and more communities across the State; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her extensive work with Leadership Tennessee, Ms. Cate is a member of the board of the Association of Leadership Programs, the national organization for leadership programs, and was selected to serve as chair of the association's 2020 annual conference; and

WHEREAS, under her astute leadership, Cathy Cate has guided Leadership Tennessee from its founding home at Lipscomb University to its independent status as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cate's many accomplishments aside, she is perhaps most proud of the love and support she shares with her husband, Mark Cate, and her two daughters, Bailey and Abbie; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Cate exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Cate has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and the citizens she has so ably served; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Cathy Cate our heartfelt

wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, offering our deepest gratitude for her distinguished service with Leadership Tennessee and wishing her every continued success in her 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.