

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 164

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jim Henry upon his exemplary service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a gentleman who personifies the concept of the dedicated public servant, always working to perpetuate the greater good and improve the quality of life for his fellow Americans, Tennesseans, and Roane Countians; and

WHEREAS, Jim Henry of Kingston most recently served with distinction as Deputy to Governor Bill Haslam for more than three years, providing sage advice and expert guidance on policy matters, having been appointed to that position on June 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry began his storied tenure with the Haslam Administration in January 2011, when he was named the first Commissioner of the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; he served two years in that capacity before accepting the position of Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services; and

WHEREAS, leading the Department of Children's Services with dedication and compassion from February 2013 to July 2015, Jim Henry oversaw the significant systemic and necessary fundamental changes in the State's foster care system that ultimately led to the settlement of the decade-long federal lawsuit *Brian A. v. Haslam*; and

WHEREAS, a champion for children, Commissioner Jim Henry was the 2015 recipient of the Childhelp Voice of the Children Award, which honored him and the Department of Children's Services for their continued excellence in serving the State's at-risk children and families and the agency's extensive work to give children silenced by abuse a vocal advocate; and

WHEREAS, born in Jefferson City on February 22, 1945, James M. Henry is the son of Ira M. and Lorene Gladys Millsaps Henry; he attended primary school in Madisonville and

secondary school in Kingston, and he later attended Hiwassee Junior College and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, Jim Henry served this country as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, and he was honorably discharged at the rank of E-5 (SK-2); and

WHEREAS, drawn to public service, Mr. Henry served as a member of the Kingston City Council from 1971 until 1973 and then served as mayor until 1978, during which time he helped bring both fiscal accountability and quality services to his fellow citizens through various programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Jim Henry distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of Roane County, representing the 32<sup>nd</sup> House District as a member of the 91<sup>st</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, and 96<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during his time in the General Assembly, Mr. Henry rendered sterling service as a member of the House Conservation and Environment Committee, the House Transportation Committee, the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the House Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Calendar and Rules, the House Education Committee, the House Agriculture Committee, and the Joint Fiscal Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served as vice chairman of the House Republican Caucus in the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and House Minority Leader in the 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, and 94<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving the General Assembly, Mr. Henry was president and chief executive officer of Omni Visions, Inc., a company serving adults with developmental disabilities and children and families in crisis; and

WHEREAS, a hometown hero, Mr. Henry was honored with his own day in Roane County on October 2, 2017, "for his dedication to the county, State, and country"; and

WHEREAS, he is a proud member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry evinces his devout religious faith as a member of First Baptist Church in Kingston; and

WHEREAS, Jim Henry is grateful for the love and support he shares with his daughter, Liesa Henry, and he cherishes the memory of his beloved wife of forty-eight years, Pat Henry, and his treasured sons, John Henry and Jimmy Henry; and

WHEREAS, at every level of government, Jim Henry has placed the welfare of his fellow citizens and his community above personal concerns to bring about a brighter future for all, and he is worthy of our approbation; 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 and commend Jim Henry upon his exemplary service to the State of Tennessee, thank him for his many contributions to State and local government, 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.