

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 288

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gordon Wayne Miller on the occasion of his retirement.

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

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Gordon Wayne Miller, who has served with distinction as executive director of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS), since January 2013; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Miller will be taking a much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2017, bringing to a close four and a half years of sterling service with TOSS; and

WHEREAS, during his time as executive director of TOSS, Mr. Miller, who lives in Knoxville, has been living and working in Nashville during the week, meeting and collaborating with the State legislature and TOSS to improve education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, immediately prior to assuming his role with TOSS, Wayne Miller enjoyed a twenty-seven-year career at Lenoir City Schools, where he served in various capacities to create an innovative, supportive learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller was a three-year-veteran teacher when he joined the team at Lenoir City Schools, having gained experience at Roane County Schools and Knoxville City Schools. From 1985 until 1998, he was a teacher of technology education at Lenoir City High School; he then served as assistant principal of that high school from 1995 until 1998, assuming the role of principal in 1998, a post he held for two years; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Wayne Miller became superintendent of Lenoir City Schools; he served in this capacity for twelve years, during which time he was committed to professionalism

and to balancing innovative ideas with traditional ideals. He retired as Lenoir City Schools superintendent in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville on September 5, 1957, Wayne Miller is the son of Paul Gordon and Norma Jean Miller; he was raised in West Knoxville, where he attended Bearden High School; and

WHEREAS, Paul Miller, a teacher at Young High School in Knoxville, died at a young age, leaving Norma Miller to raise their son alone; Wayne Miller and his mother walked across the stage together at the University of Tennessee in 1980, graduating with undergraduate degrees in education and nursing, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Wayne Miller received his Master of Arts in Education from Tennessee Technological University (TTU); two years later, he received his Specialist in Education degree from TTU, specializing in administration and supervision with a concentration in secondary administration; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his profession, Wayne Miller has served as chairman of the Tennessee Superintendents Study Council, the Southeast Tennessee Superintendent Study Council, the Tennessee Text Book Commission, and the Little Tennessee Valley Education Co-op; and

WHEREAS, highly valued among his peers for his insight and opinion, Mr. Miller has been a member of such organizations as the American Association of School Administrators, the board of directors of the Association of Independent Municipal Schools, the Tennessee School Board Association, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the University of Tennessee's Admissions Board for Technology Education, and the International Technology Education Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller has been involved in various ground-breaking education initiatives, including the development of a new teacher evaluation model and an international studies program via partnership with a school in Roskilde, Denmark; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Miller has also contributed his time and numerous talents to serving his community through organizations such as the Loudon County United Way, the Loudon

County Literacy Council, the Loudon County Education Foundation, the Loudon County Health Improvement Council, the Lenoir City Hope Resource Center, the Lenoir City Rotary Club, and the YMCA Camp Montvale; and

WHEREAS, among the many professional honors Mr. Miller has received are the Superintendent of the Year award, East Tennessee Superintendent of the Year award, Teacher of the Year award from the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, and Teacher of the Year award from Lenoir City High School; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Miller is grateful for the love and companionship of his high school sweetheart and wife of nearly thirty-eight years, Diane, with whom he has two daughters, Shannon Welch and Paula Miller, and one grandson, Liam Welch; and

WHEREAS, a man of many passions, Wayne Miller enjoys photography, traveling, four-wheeling, hunting, fishing, and riding his motorcycle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Wayne has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Gordon Wayne Miller our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success 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.