My Fellow Tennesseans,

For a quarter of a century, from 1980-2005, former Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota III served our state as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court. His tenure on the court was the second longest in state history and included three terms as chief justice. At the time of his retirement on September 2, 2005, his judicial career had spanned 35 years, including service on the Chancery Court of Davidson County (1970-1974) and the Court of Appeals (1974-1980).

His service to the people of Tennessee is surpassed only by his devotion to his wife of 40 years, Claire, his two children, Helen Close and Dr. Frank Russell Drowota, and five grandchildren: Ryland, Casey, and Clay Close, and Russell and Rose Drowota.

It is with great pride and personal pleasure that I dedicate the 2005-2006 Tennessee Blue Book to the Honorable Frank F. Drowota III, a true gentleman and public servant.

Sincerely,

Riley C. Darnell

November, 2005
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Credit for production of the *Tennessee Blue Book* goes to the Department of State’s Publications Division with assistance from individuals in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government. Staff of the Publications Division include: Richard Arnold, director; Marlon D. Crow, assistant director; Jannie Davis, Melissa Fisher, Robert Greene, Billie Sue Housley, Arleen Patton, and Mardee Roberts.

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PREFACE

The Tennessee Blue Book is a publication which serves as a manual of useful information on our state and its government, both past and present. This edition contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government. It also contains an expansive history section, the constitutions of the United States and Tennessee, the state's symbols and honors, the most recent election returns, and census information.

The Blue Book is divided into seven sections. The first three sections are devoted to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. These sections appear in the order set forth by the state constitution.

The organization of the aforementioned sections is based upon the organizational chart of state government which appears on the following page. Section I is dedicated to the 104th General Assembly. It also lists the membership of the various House and Senate committees for the 104th General Assembly. These committees examine issues pertinent to Tennesseans and give guidance necessary for the smooth operation of state government.

Three constitutional offices—secretary of state, comptroller of the treasury, and treasurer, filled by majority vote of the General Assembly—also are featured in this section as well as a description of their duties.

Section II is devoted to the executive branch of government and explains the function of the numerous departments administered by the governor through his appointed commissioners. This section also describes the governor’s responsibilities and explores the history and duties of the agencies under his authority.

Section III examines the judicial branch of state government and provides details concerning the state’s judicial system and the people who interpret state law.

Included in the section is an explanation of the duties of the state’s attorney general and reporter. The attorney general and reporter is a constitutional officer appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Section IV features the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and explains its role in promoting the public interest with regard to telecommunications and utilities in the state.

Section V is devoted to the people who have been elected to represent Tennessee at the federal level of government and to the United States Constitution.

Section VI contains a cumulative history which examines the development of the state from a wilderness to the present era, portraits and biographies of Tennessee’s former governors, various historic sites in Tennessee, symbols the state Legislature has selected as representative of Tennessee at its best, and the Tennessee Constitution.

Section VII details the results of elections held across the state in 2003, 2004, and 2005 and provides statistical information regarding the cities and counties of Tennessee.

The term Blue Book dates from the 15th century when the English Parliament began keeping its records in large volumes covered with blue velvet. Since that time the name Blue Book has been used to describe many forms of government manuals.
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