

TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chairman Mike Carter of Ooltewah, Tennessee, for meritorious service on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor members who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts have ensured proper attention to innumerable issues in fulfillment of the Commission's mission to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems, to provide high quality research support to state and local government officials in order to improve the overall quality of government in Tennessee, and to improve the effectiveness of the intergovernmental system to better serve the citizens of Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Chairman Carter, a native of Ooltewah, Tennessee, and an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis Law School, practiced law in Memphis before returning to Ooltewah;

WHEREAS, with his wife of 46 years, Joan, he raised two wonderful sons, Stephen and Tim, and was a proud grandfather of Walter;

WHEREAS, Chairman Carter practiced law for 20 years in Chattanooga representing a wide range of clients, including the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, from 1985 until 1997;

WHEREAS, in 1997, he was appointed by Governor Don Sundquist as Judge of the General Sessions Court of Hamilton County, Tennessee;

WHEREAS, in August of 2005, after volunteering to serve in nursing homes in Houston, Texas, during Hurricane Rita, Chairman Carter came to the conclusion to resign his judgeship and go into full time service for those elderly who could not serve themselves;

WHEREAS, he served as Special Assistant to Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey from 2009 until 2011;

WHEREAS, Chairman Carter served as Representative from District 29 in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 2013 until his death, serving as Chairman of the Civil Justice Committee and on the Children and Family Affairs Subcommittee, Civil Justice Subcommittee, Local Government Committee, Property and Planning Subcommittee, and Calendar and Rules Committee;

WHEREAS, Chairman Carter sponsored several pieces of legislation during his career, but with a mission of enabling Tennessee to lead the nation in matching children with loving families, he was most proud of those bills he sponsored that dealt with adoption;

WHEREAS, numerous current and former Tennessee state government leaders noted their high esteem for Chairman Carter and his leadership, among them, Governor Bill Lee who said that he would miss Chairman Carter, and that he considered him a leader and a friend, and Speaker Cameron Sexton, who commented on Chairman Carter's career as an effective and dedicated public servant;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally said, "Judge Carter was an excellent public servant and a great man" and that "he provided wise counsel to his colleagues and displayed fierce loyalty to his friends;" former Speaker Beth Harwell remembered him as "one of the most sincere and intelligent men I have ever met;" Representative Jeremy Faison said, "Judge, you were one of the very best minds I ever had the privilege of serving with;" Representative Chris Todd called Carter a "true statesman" as well as a "friend and mentor"; and TACIR Vice-Chairman Mayor Kevin Brooks said, "Tennessee is a better state because of Representative Mike Carter. I am a better man for having served alongside him in Nashville";

WHEREAS, members of Congress representing Tennessee also stated their respect for Chairman Carter, with US Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty calling him a "true statesman" and a "strong leader" and US Representative Chuck Fleischmann saying, "Mike was an outstanding judge, great state representative, and a tremendous leader in the community";

WHEREAS, in addition to his many other leadership roles, Chairman Carter served with distinction on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations starting in May 2013, being elected Chairman six years later at the May 2019 meeting, and as its Chairman providing leadership and direction to the Commission's staff; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS that we hereby honor the memory of Chairman Mike Carter, reflecting on his valuable contributions to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and for his honorable and dedicated service to the good people of Hamilton County, House District 29, and this great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our most heartfelt condolences to the family of Chairman Mike Carter.

Mayor Kevin Brooks, Acting Chairman