

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 897

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to commend Representative Eric Watson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their districts and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eric Watson is one such distinguished public servant who served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and decency; and

WHEREAS, Representative Watson is a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Meigs, Polk, and Bradley Counties, and he served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Eric Watson distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 22nd House District, who evinced their firm belief in his abilities as a legislator by electing him to serve five terms as their representative, and he performed admirably for them; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 104th through 108th General Assemblies, Eric Watson was prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Representative Watson currently renders sterling service as Chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee and a member of its subcommittee, a member of the House State and Local Government and Calendar and Rules Committees, a member of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, co-chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Law and

Criminal Justice Standing Committee, and member of the Tennessee Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Task Force on Immigration and Citizenship; and

WHEREAS, during his legislative tenure, he served with distinction as a member of the House Transportation Committee and its Public Transportation Subcommittee, as Vice Chair of the House Elections Subcommittee, and as a member of the former Judiciary Committee's subcommittees on Constitutional Protections, Criminal Practice and Procedure, Judicial Administration, and General Subcommittee of Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in office, Representative Watson has been a strong proponent of fighting against crime and victimization, and he is an ardent supporter of the Second Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Representative Watson is a professional law enforcement officer currently serving as a detective for the Benton Police Department; he is a licensed private investigator and is certified by the State to teach handgun safety and boater safety education; and he is a graduate of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation State Academy, the Tennessee Sheriffs School, the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy, and the United States Marshall Service Academy; and

WHEREAS, Representative Watson received his primary and secondary education in Tennessee public schools. He holds a Professional Certificate in Law Enforcement from the University of Tennessee Martin and attended Andersonville Theological Seminary, from which he earned a master's degree, *summa cum laude*, and a Bachelor of Education degree, *summa cum laude*; and

WHEREAS, Eric Watson is a man of deep and abiding Christian faith and a talented musician, and he receives great relaxation and pleasure exercising his musical talents as a part of his worship; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Eric Watson donates his time and energies as a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Rifle Association, and the Southern Gospel Music Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a public servant, Eric Watson worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, proving himself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Representative Watson is eager to offer himself for public service in a new capacity and is seeking the office of sheriff of Bradley County; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Eric Watson is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Tenille; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eric Watson is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Eric Watson for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service to the citizens of the 22nd House District, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.