

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 35

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mike Antrican on the occasion of his retirement as the director of schools in the Hancock County School District.

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

WHEREAS, Mike Antrican is one such estimable person, who has served with distinction for twenty-five years as the director of schools in the Hancock County School District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Antrican began a much-deserved retirement on December 31, 2014, capping an incredible thirty-nine-year career in education; and

WHEREAS, the son of Doyle and Nola Antrican, Mike Antrican grew up in the Chinquipin and Cantwell Valley sections of the county. His father was a World War II veteran, teacher, and first-generation college graduate, and his mother worked at Magnavox and then focused on homemaking and raising him and his sister, Sherry, on their farm; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Hancock High School in 1972, Mr. Antrican attended Walters State Community College for two years, completed his bachelor's degree at East Tennessee State University, and completed his master's degree at the University of Tennessee in 1984; and

WHEREAS, he embarked upon his sterling career as a teacher and coach in 1976, was publicly elected to serve as superintendent from 1984 to 1992, returned to the classroom for six years, and then was appointed director of schools in 1998; and

WHEREAS, adapting to changing times, Mike Antrican realized that Hancock County needed to consolidate the rural schools, and new facilities were built under budget; and

WHEREAS, outspoken on the issue of state support for education, Mr. Antrican started lobbying in 1984, joined forces with Bill Emerson and Wayne Qualls of the nonprofit group

Tennessee School Systems for Equity, and participated in a renowned lawsuit, *Tennessee Small Schools v. McWherter*, which resulted in schools receiving State aid through a formula that considered the differences in local fiscal capability and increased teacher salaries across the State. Now almost all educational funds for Hancock County schools come from the State; and

WHEREAS, realizing he still has much to contribute after retirement, Mike Antrican started working part time as the executive director of Clinch-Powell Educational Cooperative (CPEC) on January 1, 2015, to expand activities such as Head Start, after-school programs, talent searches, in-service, and professional development; he also works on the family farm in Cantwell Valley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Antrican exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean. He is most appreciative of the love of his mother, Nola; his daughters, Jenna Royston and Nikki Harrison; and his grandson, Pearson Harrison; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Mike Antrican 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.