

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Susie Wiles, the first woman to serve as White House chief of staff.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to acknowledge those intrepid leaders whose trailblazing efforts are an inspiration to current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Susie Wiles, who was recently tapped to serve as White House chief of staff under President Donald Trump, her term beginning on January 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this appointment gives Ms. Wiles the distinction of being the first woman in our country's nearly 250-year history to serve as the president's chief of staff; and

WHEREAS, born Susan Summerall on May 14, 1957, in New Jersey, Ms. Wiles is one of three children born to Pat and Kathy Summerall; she graduated from The Academy of the Holy Angels in 1975 and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Maryland, College Park; and

WHEREAS, her extensive career in politics began in 1979 when she was hired as an assistant for Representative Jack Kemp; the following year, she joined Ronald Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign as a campaign scheduler; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Ms. Wiles served as chief of staff to John Delaney, then-Mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, and worked for U.S. Representative Tillie Fowler; from 2004 to 2009, she continued her work in Florida, advising Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, she was credited with helping elect businessman Rick Scott in the Florida gubernatorial election, against the odds, as Mr. Scott was considered an outsider at the time with few connections within the Florida Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Ms. Wiles was hired as a campaign manager for the former Governor of Utah Jon Huntsman, Jr.'s presidential campaign; while on the Huntsman campaign, she and former Jacksonville Jaguars player Tony Boselli launched a Ponte Vedra Beach-based consulting firm in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Susie Wiles concurrently ran the lobbying firm Ballard Partners in Tallahassee, Florida, for approximately a decade, departing from the firm in September 2019; and

WHEREAS, she began working with the Trump presidential campaign in 2016 when she ran the campaign's operations in Florida, and in 2018, she came on board with the successful gubernatorial campaign for Ron DeSantis, who called her "the best in the business"; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, Susie Wiles was appointed chief executive officer of President Trump's Save America PAC, and in the run-up to the 2022 mid-term elections and his 2024 presidential campaign announcement, she was tapped as his chief of staff; and

WHEREAS, the selection of Ms. Wiles as President-elect Trump's White House chief of staff was announced two days after his 2024 election victory, thus setting the stage for her historic role as the first woman to hold this position; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize Susie Wiles on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and congratulate Susie Wiles on her appointment to serve

as the next White House chief of staff, wishing her every success as she assumes this imperative role in the next presidential administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.