

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 204

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Altha Stewart, the first African-American president of the American Psychiatric Association.

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Black History Month, Dr. Altha Stewart is adding a new chapter to black history; she will soon become the first African American to lead the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in its distinguished 173-year history; and

WHEREAS, presently president-elect, Dr. Stewart will begin her tenure as president of the APA in May 2018; she has also served as president of the Association of Women Psychiatrists and the Black Psychiatrists of America; and

WHEREAS, standing at the intersection of race and gender in leading this national organization, Dr. Stewart will champion useful and effective collaborations among medical colleagues outside of psychiatry, engage in dialogue with advocacy groups, and nurture the next generation of psychiatrists during her presidency of the APA; and

WHEREAS, associate professor of psychiatry and the chief of Social and Community Psychiatry at University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), Dr. Stewart is considered a national expert in public sector and minority issues in mental health care and in the effects of trauma and violence on children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart came to UTHSC in 2015 to lead the Center for Justice Involved Youth and has since taken the lead on Defending Childhood Shelby County, a community initiative to improve the lives of children in the area; and

WHEREAS, long a champion for juvenile justice, Dr. Stewart was previously a psychiatrist for the Shelby County Public Defender's Office, in which position she worked to

improve statewide services for youth with behavioral health needs who land in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart has also served as New York City's commissioner of mental health and chief executive officer of a children's psychiatric hospital in New York and managed one of the country's largest public health systems in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, a native of South Memphis, Dr. Stewart was among the first class of women to attend what is now Christian Brothers University; she graduated from Temple University Medical School and was a resident at Hahnemann University Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Altha Stewart on this historic occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Dr. Altha Stewart on being the first African American selected to serve as president of the American Psychiatric Association during its 173-year history, commend her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

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