

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 619

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to recognize Willie McDonald for his eminent career in the banking industry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor those worthy professionals who have served with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Willie McDonald, a true banking legend who devoted seventy years to the banking industry before taking his well-deserved retirement from CenterStone Bank on October 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald's storied career is unmatched in banking, and he is the talisman of three generations of McDonalds who have changed the face of banking in both Wilson and Davidson counties; and

WHEREAS, with seven decades of banking under his belt at Third National Bank, subsequently SunTrust Bank, and then CedarStone Bank, Willie McDonald forged a family legacy with his son Bob McDonald and his grandson Robert McDonald following his lead to chart similar stellar careers in the same industry; and

WHEREAS, Bob McDonald was one of the eight founders of CedarStone Bank in 2004; subsequent to retiring from SunTrust after fifty-three years, Willie McDonald joined his son at CedarStone Bank for another fifteen years as a relationship manager; and

WHEREAS, Willie McDonald's grandson soon joined him at the Donelson branch, and Robert McDonald worked alongside his grandfather until his grandfather's second retirement in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald grew up in a family of six boys and five girls, all born in Monterey; and

WHEREAS, although attending college was not an option for the young Willie McDonald, his high school principal saw promise in the young man and helped him land a job with Third National Bank in the transit department directly after graduating from high school in 1950; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Third National Bank opened a branch in Donelson, and Mr. McDonald, meanwhile, began taking management classes at night; by 1963, he had been named manager of the branch; and

WHEREAS, after many years of exemplary service in the banking industry, he retired from SunTrust as senior vice president in 2002; and

WHEREAS, his first retirement, however, would prove temporary, as Willie McDonald next spent about eighteen months at Regions Bank, and when his son helped found CedarStone Bank in 2004, he came on board there; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. McDonald has received countless awards for his career achievements and passionate career involvement; yet among his dozens of board appointments across an array of professional entities, one accolade stands out above all others: the Tennessee Bankers Association's Leaders of Banking Excellence plaque, which he received in 2014; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Willie McDonald is most appreciative of the love and companionship he has shared with his wife, Helen, and their two sons, Bob and Bill, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, during his seventy-year career in banking, Mr. McDonald earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and customers alike; his wisdom and guidance were a gift to all who had the good fortune of working with him; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Willie McDonald for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Willie McDonald for his illustrious career in the banking industry, applauding his dedication to excellence and extending to him 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.