

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 662

By Harris

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Samuel P. McKenzie on the occasion of his retirement from Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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

WHEREAS, our colleague Representative Samuel P. McKenzie is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than thirty years as an employee of the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and will be taking his much-deserved retirement on Thursday, April 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a physicist by training, Representative Sam McKenzie serves as the Group Leader at the Spallation Neutron Source and will be retiring as the Environment, Safety, Health and Quality (ESHQ) Manager for the Proton Power Upgrade (PPU) Program; and

WHEREAS, Representative McKenzie started his employment at Oak Ridge just one day after graduating with a Master of Science degree in Solid State Physics from the University of Memphis in 1989; he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Fisk University where he currently sits on the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, at Oak Ridge, Representative McKenzie was hired into the Y-12 Complex's Development Division as a vacuum engineer. He transferred to the Health Sciences Research Division in 1990 and conducted basic research in the optical properties on complex biological materials; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, after working and attending graduate school part time in pursuit of a Ph.D., he transferred to the Measurement Applications Division and began working in Environmental Health Physics. In this capacity, he traveled to formerly utilized nuclear sites along the East Coast, remediating closed facilities, and spent most of his time in this position working in upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he was hired to work at the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), where he flourished, initially serving as the ESH Coordinator for the Accelerator Systems Division. He was an integral part of the training and safety training and programming as the project was constructed and served in many roles as the SNS was commissioned and operated; and

WHEREAS, Representative McKenzie also served as the Site Operations Manager and Complex Facility Manager, in which capacity he managed all the traditional craft and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sam McKenzie is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and was initiated into that august organization on November 18, 1984, as a member of the Eta Psi Chapter at Fisk University; and

WHEREAS, he has held virtually every leadership position in the Fraternity at the undergraduate and graduate levels; during his time at Fisk, he served the chapter in many ways: Keeper of Records and Seal, Dean of Pledges, and Chapter Basileus; and

WHEREAS, in Knoxville, he has been active with the Iota Alpha Graduate Chapter, rendering sterling service as Keeper of Records and Seal, Talent Hunt Coordinator, Vice Basileus, Basileus, and as the current budget committee chair; and

WHEREAS, April 2023 has also seen Representative McKenzie complete his fraternity leadership term, having served as the 23<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> District Representative for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which is composed of Kentucky and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an acknowledged leader among his peers during his time at Fisk University, Representative McKenzie served as Senior Class President and was rightfully recognized years later with his receipt of the Alumni Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the voters of the 15<sup>th</sup> House District of the State of Tennessee expressed their faith in Samuel P. McKenzie when he was elected to service in the Tennessee House of Representatives; since that time, he has ably served the residents of East and South

Knoxville as well as Downtown Knoxville, including Knoxville College and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed leader in his community, Representative McKenzie has lent his time and talents to numerous civic, community, and charitable organizations across Knoxville and the East Tennessee region; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Representative Sam McKenzie is most thankful for the love and support of his wife, Gwen; his three sons, Samuel Jr., Malik, and Cameron; and their tremendous blended family; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sam McKenzie exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Representative Sam McKenzie 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 THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Representative Samuel P. McKenzie 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.