

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 697

By Cobb C

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ron Mahal for his many years of service to the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize those individuals who, through their influence and dedication, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed person is Ron Mahal, who served with acumen and alacrity from 2001 until 2009 as the Chairman of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and of the good people of his community; and

WHEREAS, early in his professional career, Mr. Mahal rendered sterling service as the Manager of Manufacturing Engineering at RACO, Inc., in South Bend, Indiana; in 1978, RACO initiated plans to develop a satellite manufacturing facility in the southeast, and Ron Mahal was selected to lead site selection efforts; and

WHEREAS, he was later selected to manage construction of the new facility, which was completed in 1981; located in the east industrial park in Lincoln County, the facility is currently owned and operated by Frito-Lay, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a man of a great many talents, Ron Mahal joined Amana Refrigeration, Inc., now known as Goodman Manufacturing, dedicating his time and energies to the company for nineteen years; prior to his retirement in 2001, Mr. Mahal served in several manufacturing and facilities engineering and management positions; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Mahal's tenure on the Board, Lincoln County experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the State; American Development announced their plan to locate

in Fayetteville-Lincoln County in 2002 and, C and S Plastics announced their intent to locate in Fayetteville-Lincoln County in 2003 and, in 2006, announced an expansion of 100 jobs and \$2 million in investments; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Trilogy Pools released plans to move to Fayetteville-Lincoln County and, during the same year, Gregory Manufacturing opted to make the same move; also in 2004, First Class Printing announced their intent to expand their company by fifty jobs and add \$2 million in investments; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of the Industrial Development Board, Goodman announced a 2006 expansion of 800 jobs and, in 2008, the company added an additional 300 jobs; in 2007, Fushi purchased Copperweld Bimetallic, marking the first Chinese investment in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the following year, Fushi expanded with an additional \$3 million investment, adding twenty new jobs; and

WHEREAS, not only has the Industrial Board prospered financially during Mr. Mahal's tenure, it has also added programs and sparked initiatives, remaining active in the social life of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Board established a quarterly plant managers meeting, which offers managers a forum in which to congregate, hosts a luncheon, and features guest speakers; in addition, the Board initiated a farm safety program that teaches all fourth graders in Fayetteville-Lincoln County lessons of farm safety; and

WHEREAS, The Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Board also participated in Governor Bredesen's inaugural orange carpet tour, worked alongside Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and twelve other counties to conduct a target market study, and partnered with MTSU, the Tennessee Department of Labor, and six other communities to conduct a labor study; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to his community beyond his professional undertakings, Mr. Mahal is active in various community affairs and stands as Chairman of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Regional Airport Authority; during his free time, he works as an active commercial pilot and flies his own personal aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Ron Mahal is a professional committed to the highest tenets of good business practices and community development and leadership; his leadership as a member and as Chairman of the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board have resulted in innumerable benefits to that county and to the State of Tennessee, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Ron Mahal for his many years of sterling service with the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board, applaud his able leadership, thank him for his wise direction and steadfast commitment to the citizens of this State, and extend to him our wishes for future success in all his chosen endeavors.

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