

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1017

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to commend the Wilson County Poll Officials for their exemplary service on March 3, 2020.

WHEREAS, in the early hours of Tuesday, March 3, 2020, a deadly tornado ravaged a large part of Wilson County, causing extensive damage to property, widespread power outages, and dangerous travel conditions; and

WHEREAS, March 3, 2020, was also an election day in Tennessee, and the Wilson County Election Commission took quick action, having had the exceptional forethought to develop contingency plans for emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, fortunately, Wilson County had planned for the election to be the first to utilize convenience vote centers, where voters could cast their vote at the most accessible poll, rather than having voters register their votes at assigned polling locations; and

WHEREAS, by 4:00 a.m., Wilson County election officials had determined that two of the eighteen polling locations needed to be closed due to storm damage, as West Wilson Middle School took a direct hit from the tornado, the access to Lebanon High School was not safe, and ten poll locations were without power; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 Wilson County Poll Officials bravely came out before dawn to prepare the polls for Election Day, greeting voters when the polls opened at 8:00 a.m. with flashlights, as voting got underway and continued throughout the day, with power restored to all but four locations by the end of the day; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Poll Officials diligently rose to the occasion and met every challenge; their competent operation of the polls in such dire circumstances reflected their training, commitment, dedication, and endurance; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the tornado, the Wilson County Election Commission Office worked in coordination with Wilson County Emergency Management and Tennessee Emergency Management to evaluate the situation and received excellent support from both agencies, as well as from Secretary of State Tre Hargett and Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins; and

WHEREAS, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, will long be remembered for the tragedy of three Wilson County fatalities, the tremendous property loss, and the heroism of Wilson County's Poll Officials; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the Wilson County Poll Officials on their distinguished service to the citizens of Wilson County on March 3, 2020, as they ensured that the polls were open and that the integrity of every vote cast was protected.

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.