

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7037 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Gracie Porter for her distinguished service to the Nashville community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Gracie Porter, a longtime educator and the first African-American woman to serve as board chair of Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Porter received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and teaching from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina; she later earned her Master of Library and Information Science degree from North Carolina Central University and her doctoral degree in administration education from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gracie Porter taught in Halifax County Public Schools in Halifax, Virginia, for three years, before beginning her illustrious career with MNPS in 1973; during her tenure, she served as a classroom teacher, librarian, and principal; she was also an adjunct professor at Middle Tennessee State University and Belmont University; and

WHEREAS, she is the co-author of *Visions: African American Experiences*, a guided reading program for young students that reflects the rich diversity of children through the themes Me and My Family, My Neighborhood and Community, and My World; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Dr. Porter was elected to the MNPS school board for a two-year term, and she ran unopposed for reelection in 2008; she was twice elected by her peers to

serve as vice chair and twice elected to serve as chair, making her the first African-American woman to serve in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, she is wholly devoted to serving her community through her work with Leadership Nashville, 100 Black Women, East Nashville Hope Exchange, the Nashville Beautification Environment Commission, and the Madison Kiwanis Club, which she served as past president; she currently serves as the lieutenant governor of Division 2 of the Kiwanis Kentucky-Tennessee District; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Porter epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Gracie Porter for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 and commend Dr. Gracie Porter for her distinguished service to the Nashville community and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success.

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