

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to commend M. D. Goetz, Jr. for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Commissioner of Finance and Administration.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those distinguished public servants whose contributions to the prosperity of this state during their illustrious tenures in state government can be categorized as nothing short of outstanding; and

WHEREAS, no public servant could be more deserving of this special recognition than M. D. "Dave" Goetz, Jr., Commissioner of Finance and Administration; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Commissioner Goetz is a graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, prior to entering public service Mr. Goetz was involved in government relations, having served as President of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, formerly the Tennessee Association of Business, after a three-year tenure as Executive Vice President in charge of government relations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Goetz served from 1990 to 1996 as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Business Roundtable and was Director of Government Affairs for the Tennessee Association of Business from 1988 to 1990, having entered the business sector after a highly successful career as a political reporter for WTVF-TV in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Goetz joined Governor Bredesen's administration in January 2003, when he was selected to serve as the governor's chief financial officer for Tennessee state government and oversee the compilation and administration of an annual budget of over \$21.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, under his astute leadership at the helm of the Department of Finance and Administration, Tennessee maintained its enviable position as one of the most fiscally

responsible states in the country, due in large part to Commissioner Goetz's adherence to the sagacious philosophy of "spend conservatively and save aggressively"; and

WHEREAS, under Commissioner Goetz's stewardship, the State of Tennessee reached an all-time high of \$750 million in the Rainy Day Fund as it easily exceeded the \$178 million total inherited from the previous administration in 2002; such savings allowed Tennessee to weather the economic downturn at the end of the decade, which coupled with Mr. Goetz leadership, also saw the return of the state's bond rating to the highest available; and

WHEREAS, a strong leader in bringing new and innovative ideas to state government, Commissioner Goetz oversaw the start of the state's first eHealth efforts in Memphis; the development of more online government services for Tennesseans; the implementation of the Cover Tennessee initiative to provide healthcare insurance to three uninsured groups, small business employees (CoverTN), children not eligible for TennCare (CoverKids), and the uninsurable (Access Tennessee); and the establishment of the Office of Inspector General to investigate enrollee fraud in TennCare; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Goetz also led the state to invest over \$1 billion in new construction money for higher education and developed the state's first ever "Open Government" website, bringing more transparency to state government with reports on employee salaries, state reimbursements, and state contract payments; and

WHEREAS, his accomplishments as Commissioner of Finance and Administration also include reducing by half the number of sole source contracts issued by state government, upgrading two of the state's largest office buildings to cut their energy expenses more than half, and adding language to all competitive state contracts to prohibit the state or any state entity from contracting with a person who knowingly utilizes the services of illegal immigrants; and

WHEREAS, winning the hard won respect of the state employees of Tennessee, Dave Goetz distinguished himself as a tireless public servant, working long hours when necessary to accomplish the goals of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Dave Goetz can best be described as knowledgeable, fair, and compassionate; he has readily assisted the members of the General Assembly during protracted budget negotiations, not only during session, but also throughout the year, in resolving important issues that will affect Tennesseans for years to come; and

WHEREAS, a member of Christ Church Cathedral where he serves on the vestry, Mr. Goetz is devoted to his family and is extremely grateful for the love and support of his wife, Katy Varney, and their two children; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of Dave Goetz's integrity and commitment walks among us, and it is highly fitting that he be honored for his faithful service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Commissioner M.D. Goetz, Jr. for his dedicated service to the Department of Finance and Administration and the good people of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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