

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sally Sparks of Knoxville on being honored as the 2024 REALTOR of the Year by Tennessee REALTORS.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary professionals who have ascended to the very pinnacle of their chosen professions; and

WHEREAS, Sally Sparks of Knoxville was recently selected as REALTOR of the Year by Tennessee REALTORS, a most befitting honor that recognizes her career-long dedication to and significant influence in Tennessee's real estate industry; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished real estate professional with an extensive record of leadership, community service, and advocacy, Ms. Sparks exemplifies dedication to advancing the real estate profession, fostering civic engagement, and supporting community; and

WHEREAS, she has been an unwavering supporter of REALTORS Political Action Committee (RPAC), contributing at the highest levels since 2005, and was recognized as a Golden R Major Investor and President's Circle sustaining member for multiple years; she was inducted into the RPAC Hall of Fame at the \$25,000 level in 2021 and has attended the President's Circle Conference many times over the years; and

WHEREAS, Sally Sparks has served in numerous leadership roles within the Knoxville Area Association of REALTORS (KAAR), including as president (2015), past president (2016), and NAR director representative to the KAAR Board (2017); her committee work includes her roles as RPAC chair (2017) and a member of the Grievance, Budget & Finance, and Strategic Planning committees, among others; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her contributions, Ms. Sparks was named KAAR REALTOR of the Year in 2017; at the state level, her involvement includes thirteen consecutive years as a Tennessee REALTORS director and serving as Diversity & Inclusion Committee chair (2023) and Governmental Affairs chair (2020). She has attended every Tennessee REALTORS Spring Conference since 2008, in addition to numerous conventions; and

WHEREAS, her national involvement includes serving multiple terms as a National Association of REALTORS (NAR) director and contributing to committees such as RPAC Major Investor Council, Fair Housing, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; she has attended nearly every NAR Legislative and Annual Conference since 2010; and

WHEREAS, Sally Sparks's civic contributions are vast and include serving on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club, Wesley House, and CareCuts, through which she has supported underprivileged and homeless populations; she is a founding member of "100 Realtors Who Care" and an active volunteer at Faith Promise Church. She has also worked with Neighborhood Housing, Inc., helping revitalize distressed neighborhoods through her real estate expertise; and

WHEREAS, her political engagement includes attending local government meetings, supporting various campaigns, and advocating for REALTOR interests at the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, a long-time member of the Women's Council of REALTORS (WCR), Sally Sparks has served as local chapter president (2010, 2021) and as the Tennessee Member of the Year (2018); she has held various roles within the Residential Real Estate Council (RRC), including Tennessee State president (2019) and National RVP Sub Selection Committee chair (2022), and she is a member of REBAC, AREA, and the Real Estate Business Institute (REBI); and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Ms. Sparks has been recognized for her tireless efforts to elevate the real estate profession and give back to her community; her contributions to RPAC, her leadership roles, and her commitment to diversity, inclusion, and civic service exemplify the highest standards of excellence in the field; and

WHEREAS, Sally Sparks continues to inspire her peers with her unwavering commitment to the REALTOR mission and her community, and she is richly deserving of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize Sally Sparks of Knoxville on being honored as the 2024 REALTOR of the Year by Tennessee REALTORS and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in all her 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.