

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 303

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Dr. Richard Harrell Emmert and his wife, Rebecca Faye Emmert, for thirty years of meritorious service to Manley Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Harrell Emmert is one such stalwart servant of the Lord, who faithfully serves as the Pastor of Manley Baptist Church in Morristown; Pastor Emmert and his wife, Rebecca Faye Emmert, have rendered more than thirty years of sterling service to their congregation; and

WHEREAS, since being called by the Lord to serve at Manley Baptist Church, Dr. Emmert has used his vision and compassion to thrust the church into service as a beacon of light for twenty-first century ministry, and through adroit Christian leadership, he has served citizens all over his community; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville, Richard Emmert was reared in Sevier County and graduated from Carter High School in Strawberry Plains; and

WHEREAS, he attended Carson-Newman College and was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1965; in 1967, he graduated from Carson-Newman with his bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, desiring the education to pursue a higher calling, Dr. Emmert went on to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, from which he graduated in 1973 with a Master of Divinity degree; he further advanced his education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Emmert was joined in holy matrimony with Rebecca Faye Cole of Strawberry Plains; this blessed union produced four beautiful children, Jane, Jennifer, Joseph, and Natalie; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmert served his first pastorate at Richland Baptist Church in Blaine while he was still a student at Carson-Newman, serving as pastor of that congregation from 1965 until 1970; and

WHEREAS, from 1971 until 1976, he was the pastor of Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church in Madison, Indiana; in 1977, he assumed the pastorate at First Baptist Church in Seymour, where he remained until March of 1979, when he was called to Manley Baptist Church to serve as Senior Pastor; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Richard Emmert's thirty years at Manley Baptist Church, the membership has grown from 798 people to its current 2,454 members; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Emmert and the guidance and care of Mrs. Emmert, Manley Baptist Church has undergone a series of building programs, making vast improvements with the addition of a fellowship hall, administrative offices, education facilities, and a Christian Activities Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Manley Baptist Church purchased the old Manley Elementary School building and renovated it into adult and student education areas; improvements resumed in 2001 with the launching of a ten-year campaign to build a 1,800-seat worship center, administrative offices, and a fellowship hall to seat 700; and

WHEREAS, the church is currently embarking upon a building program which will raise funds to build a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 1,800, as well as offices for pastors and worship leaders; and

WHEREAS, in the secular world, Dr. Emmert has positively influenced the people of his community as a member of the Jefferson County and Hamblen County Chambers of Commerce; he also serves on the Board of Trustees and the Athletic Committee for Carson-Newman College and is a member of the Ministerial Association of Hamblen County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmert is thankful for the loving companionship of his wife, Faye, and the unending support from his four children; and

WHEREAS, Richard and Faye Emmert are deeply admired by their ten grandchildren;
and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 2, 2009, the grateful congregation of Manley Baptist Church will celebrate the Emmerts, meeting together at the Christian Activity Center to properly honor Richard and Faye Emmert for their outstanding leadership and thirty years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Emmert and his wife, Faye Emmert, truly exemplify the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout their estimable thirty years as humble servants of God, the Emmerts have demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of their friends, their family, and the many members of Manley Baptist Church; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Dr. Richard Harrell Emmert and Rebecca Faye Emmert for thirty years of meritorious service to the Manley Baptist Church and to the community of Morristown, thank them for their humble servitude, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in their fruitful ministry.

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