

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 360

By Black

A RESOLUTION to commend William Talley Ridley for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, William Talley Ridley is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Senator Diane Black, Senate Republican Caucus Chair; William's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators he assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, born on April 5, 1988 to Becky and Gregg Ridley, William grew up on a 30-acre farm in Pikeville with his parents and his younger brother, Matt Ridley; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 graduate of Bledsoe County High School, Mr. Ridley stood as President of the Young Republican Organization and was a member of Future Farmers of America, the Beta Club, the 4-H Club, the First Priority Christian Club, and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, through which he competed in the Creed Speech Competition and won second place in the State; and

WHEREAS, a natural athlete, William Ridley was a valuable member of the basketball team for all four years of high school, during which time his remarkable skills earned him the honor of being named to several All-Tournament teams and winning the Best Free Throw Shooter Award in 2006; he also ran on the cross-country team for three years; and

WHEREAS, following his natural propensity for politics, he attended 4-H Congress, at which he acted as a Senator at the State Capitol for one week; it was during this week that William first found his deep interest in Tennessee Government; and

WHEREAS, during his junior year of high school, William shadowed Representative Eric Swafford for three days; and

WHEREAS, while shadowing, William had the honor of sitting on the House floor with Representative Swafford during session and voting “yes” for him on the resolution allowing a referendum to amend the State Constitution and define marriage as a union between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from high school, William Ridley was selected from 125 students to receive the Citizenship Award from Bledsoe County High School; and

WHEREAS, since then, he has gained experience in a variety of jobs, working as a lifeguard during the summers of 2005 and 2006, serving as Assistant Pool Manager in 2007, and standing as Pool Manager in the summer of 2008, a job he plans to return to in the summer of 2009; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his employment with the pool, William has served as an employee in many part-time positions, including teaching swimming lessons through the American Red Cross, washing cars for Forrest Cate Ford, working at Fall Creek Falls State Park, and serving as a basketball referee for the non-profit Rebound Club Organization in Bledsoe County; and

WHEREAS, active on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University, he ran against twenty-five candidates during his freshman year and was elected as a Freshman Senator for the Student Government Association; also during his freshman year, he was elected President of his pledge class for the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and Vice President of Programming for the spring of 2007; and

WHEREAS, during the 2007-2008 academic year, William attended Tennessee Technological University, where he made the Dean’s List before returning to Middle Tennessee State University for the fall of 2008; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a hardworking, politically astute student, William was selected to be a Legislative Intern for the 2009 session; and

WHEREAS, during his productive time with the General Assembly, Mr. Ridley was a member of the Intern Basketball team, which claimed victory over the State Legislators; he also participated in a mock election and mock session on the House floor; and

WHEREAS, William Ridley is proud to be one of the few interns allowed on the Senate floor every Thursday during session to take pictures for the Republican Press Secretary's office; and

WHEREAS, his duties as an intern include preparing Senator Black's committee packets for the Judiciary, Finance, and General Welfare Committees; preparing coffee; fielding telephone calls; maintaining communication with constituents; researching Tennessee Code Annotated; taking notes on other committees; working with High Schools in Senator Black's district; and overseeing other daily office duties; and

WHEREAS, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, where he is highly regarded by his peers, William has achieved academic success while majoring in political science with a pre-law concentration and pursuing a minor in criminal justice, all while participating in numerous extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridley plans to graduate with his Bachelor of Science degree in the spring of 2010 and later attend law school and run for public office; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many political and academic involvements, he is an active member of the First Southern Baptist Church in Pikeville, through which he has traveled on two World Changer mission trips to Casper, Wyoming, and Savannah, Georgia, where he roofed and painted houses for people in need; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexities of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, William brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2009 session of the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2009 legislative session, he has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, William Ridley has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; 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 commend William Talley Ridley for outstanding service as a

legislative intern for Senator Diane Black 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 with this final clause omitted from such copy.