

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 729

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Harry McSween upon receiving the J. Lawrence Smith Medal.

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Y. (Hap) McSween, the Chancellor's Professor and Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Professor McSween recently was honored with the J. Lawrence Smith Medal from the National Academy of Sciences, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a scientist and professor as it recognizes his extraordinary scientific achievements; and

WHEREAS, Professor Hap McSween is one of seventeen honorees who will be recognized in a ceremony on April 30, 2012, during the National Academy of Sciences 149th annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the J. Lawrence Smith Medal, which has been presented since 1888, and its accompanying \$25,000 prize are awarded for recent original and meritorious investigations of meteoric bodies, and Dr. McSween was selected for this prestigious honor for his pioneering studies of the parent planets of meteorites and his work on the geological history of Mars, in which he used studies of Martian meteorites and spacecraft missions to the planet; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the importance of education, Dr. McSween earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from The Citadel, his Master of Science degree in

Geology from the University of Georgia, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Geology from Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, valiantly answering the call of duty, he served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot as a pilot in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam conflict; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McSween has been a valuable member of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, geology faculty for thirty-five years and has rendered sterling service as both the Head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hap McSween began participating in NASA spacecraft missions in 1997 as a member of the science team for the *Mars Pathfinder* rover and later for the *Mars Global Surveyor* orbiter, and he currently serves with distinction as a co-investigator for the *Mars Odyssey* spacecraft mission, which is mapping the mineralogy and chemistry of the Martian surface from orbit; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers and a pioneer in his field, he skillfully led a team of researchers in 1999 to discover geologic evidence on a meteorite that proved the existence of water deep within Mars' crust; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McSween is particularly interested in sharing his enthusiasm for science with the public through public speaking engagements and the publication of three popular books, which explained the fundamental aspects of meteorites and planetary science, as well as several geochemistry and cosmochemistry textbooks; and

WHEREAS, a highly influential figure, Dr. Hap McSween has lent his expertise and energies to numerous professional associations, including serving with acumen and alacrity as President of the Meteoritical Society, Chair of the Planetary Division of the Geological Society of America, and Councilor of the Geological Society of America, and he periodically serves as a member of advisory committees for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Research Council; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, NASA has funded his groundbreaking research on meteorites, and this accomplished scholar has published hundreds of scientific papers dealing with the petrology and cosmochemistry of meteorites and their implications for understanding how the solar system formed and evolved; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Dr. McSween is the recipient of UT Knoxville's Alexander Prize, which is named for former UT President, Governor, and United States Senator Lamar Alexander and his wife Honey, and is bestowed upon those who exemplify excellence in teaching and research; and

WHEREAS, this brilliant gentlemen is also the proud namesake for asteroid 5223 McSween; and

WHEREAS, Professor McSween truly epitomizes the ideal scientist, teacher, researcher, and university citizen, who successfully combines world-class research with exceptional teaching and mentoring, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore, and

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 honor and congratulate Dr. Harry Y. (Hap) McSween upon receiving the J. Lawrence Smith Medal, commend his leadership and dedication to excellence in the field of scientific education, applaud his thirty-five years of exemplary service to The University of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes in every future endeavor.

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