

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 904

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor Don Needham as the recipient of the Joe Q. Dougherty Volunteer of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those estimable individuals who devote themselves to charitable works, thereby advancing the public good; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Don Needham, who received the 2021 Joe Q. Dougherty Volunteer of the Year Award for his service as a longtime United Way volunteer; and

WHEREAS, the prestigious award, initiated by the American Enka Corporation in 1976 and sponsored by the United Way of Hamblen County in memory of longtime United Way volunteer Joe Q. Dougherty, honors a person who voluntarily gives time above and beyond normal expectations to a participating United Way Agency or to United Way itself; and

WHEREAS, Don Needham was attending an event at Rose Center more than twenty years ago when he was asked to become a board member; though unsure at first, Mr. Needham soon found there was much he could contribute in this position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Needham was named chair of the property committee after just two years and was involved when Prater Hall was transformed from a gymnasium into a banquet hall; and

WHEREAS, Don Needham's role as chairman did not hold him back from utilizing a hands-on approach and making the most of his skillset, and it would be hard to find a space at Rose Center that Mr. Needham has not touched; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Needham has installed ceilings in the back hallway and classrooms, installed a bathroom and doors, reworked closets, built cabinets, painted, and used his woodworking skills to make trim for the office and other rooms; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this work, Mr. Needham has gone above and beyond by cleaning out the basement, keeping the mowers working, donating tools, planting bushes, and building and installing fencing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Needham has contributed countless hours of volunteer service and has been the organizer of many volunteer groups, including students, to work on projects at Rose Center; and

WHEREAS, even when he is unable to work himself, Mr. Needham stops by Rose Center, sometimes as often as several times a week, just so he can check in with the staff, encouraging them and letting them know he appreciates all that they do; and

WHEREAS, a member of First Baptist Church in Morristown, where he currently serves as the Children's Director, Mr. Needham has volunteered at the church for fifty-five years, serving as a Sunday School teacher, accompanying children on trips, and constructing amazing Vacation Bible School sets; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this laudable service, Don Needham has volunteered for fifteen years in the day surgery unit at Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System, where he assists patients from the time they enter the facility until they leave; during surgery, he serves as a liaison for families in the waiting room; and

WHEREAS, Don Needham epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism that is synonymous with this State, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and honor Don Needham as the recipient of the 2021 Joe Q. Dougherty Volunteer of the Year Award, extending to him our sincerest wishes for much success and happiness in all his 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.