

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 967

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Claudia Byrd on being named Bristolian of the Year.

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

WHEREAS, one such exemplary individual is Claudia Byrd, director of the Bristol chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, who was named Bristolian of the Year by the *Bristol Herald Courier* in 2023; and

WHEREAS, as director of the Bristol chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC), Claudia Byrd leads an organization dedicated to raising funds to support the work of nonprofit organizations serving children and families in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, shortly after moving to Bristol in 1996, Claudia Byrd was selected by the SCC board of directors to manage the organization's Bristol chapter; since 1997, the chapter has raised and contributed approximately \$20 million to more than 100 organizations and agencies; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Byrd and her husband, Jeff, established the Bristol chapter of SCC's main fundraising event, its annual Pinnacle Speedway in Lights at the Bristol Motor Speedway; the event has become a beloved holiday tradition for families in the Bristol area, who come to enjoy an elaborate holiday light display assembled throughout the raceway property; and

WHEREAS, every year, Claudia Byrd and the Bristol chapter of SCC host the organization's "Night of Smiles" event to distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of grants to local nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, as a member of SCC's national board of directors, Claudia Byrd supports the efforts of the organization's other chapters, which are located in every city across the country where Speedway Motorsports operates; and

WHEREAS, with steadfast devotion and an unwavering commitment to her cause, Claudia Byrd has improved the quality of life for countless children and families throughout the Bristol region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Claudia Byrd on being named the *Bristol Herald Courier's* 2023 Bristolian of the Year as we 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.