

SENATE RESOLUTION 89

By Lamar

A RESOLUTION to honor Mayor Madeline A. Rogero in celebration of Women's History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the month of March was officially designated as Women's History Month in 1987; and

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the achievements of those women who have paved the way wherein every person has an opportunity to pursue the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of a number of historic, pioneering women, including Madeline A. Rogero, an esteemed public servant who was the first woman to be elected to serve as Mayor of the City of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, taking office in December 2011, Mayor Rogero was the first woman mayor of a Big Four city of Tennessee and won reelection in 2015 with 98.8 percent of the vote, serving until December 2019; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, she became the first Democratic woman to serve on the Knox County Commission and subsequently won reelection in 1994; after losing to Bill Haslam in the 2003 mayor race, she joined his administration to serve the City of Knoxville as the community development director; and

WHEREAS, prior to becoming a governmental employee, Mayor Rogero worked as a consultant to Capital One's Community Affairs office and America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth; she served as executive director of Knoxville's Promise-The Alliance for Youth, Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation, the University of Tennessee Community Partnership Center, and the Coal Employment Project; and

WHEREAS, she has also served as a grants consultant with Levi Strauss Foundation and a community economic development planner at the Tennessee Valley Authority and the East Tennessee Community Design Center; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rogero holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; she postponed her college studies to work with Cesar Chavez to help farm workers improve their living and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, she is currently a consultant on the Mayors Council of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a board member of The Change Center and the Big Ears Festival, a member of the diversity/inclusion/access task force of East Tennessee Foundation, and a mentor for Leadership Knoxville Scholars; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Mayor Rogero is most thankful for the love and support of her husband, Gene Monaco, and their loving family of five children and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in saluting Mayor Rogero during Women's History Month, let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds, as does Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Mayor Madeline A. Rogero on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee as we celebrate Women's History Month and the generations of trailblazing women who have built our State and their vital contributions to our country's history.

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