

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 425

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor Greg O'Connor, 2025 Community Volunteer recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly 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 individual is Greg O'Connor of Knoxville, who was recently named the 2025 Community Volunteer recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy was created to honor those who steadfastly work to improve the lives of seniors in the Knoxville community, as the award's namesake did throughout his career; recipients are professionals and community members who have been nominated in recognition of their tireless efforts on behalf of seniors; and

WHEREAS, Greg O'Connor has made a significant impact on the Knoxville community over the years; although he practiced law for fifty-one years, his influence goes well beyond the legal field, reaching into the lives of countless individuals through his work with local organizations and charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, Greg O'Connor was an active and influential figure at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors, and he served on the board of the center for much of that time; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the board, a position he held on six separate occasions, Mr. O'Connor provided steady leadership that helped ensure the success and sustainability of the

center's programs; he worked tirelessly on organizing two key annual fundraisers, the O'Connor Open golf tournament and the Pancake Breakfast, both of which have become beloved events in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in the faith community, Mr. O'Connor played a pivotal role in Immaculate Conception Church's Fish Program, which provides food and support to those in need; his service to the program as a hands-on leader was a direct reflection of his belief in helping others and his strong sense of social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Connor devoted considerable time and energy to Family Promise, an organization that helps families experiencing homelessness, and Justice Knox, which seeks to address racial injustice and inequality in the Knoxville area; and

WHEREAS, his involvement in these organizations speaks volumes about his commitment to making Knoxville a better place for everyone, particularly those who are most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Greg O'Connor's lifelong dedication to service is a testament to the impact one person can have on a community; he has left an indelible mark on Knoxville by acting on his steadfast belief in the power of giving back; and

WHEREAS, as Knoxville continues to grow and evolve, the foundation that Mr. O'Connor has helped build will remain a guiding light for future generations; his legacy exemplifies his deeply rooted desire to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, Greg O'Connor is most worthy of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Greg O'Connor, 2025 Community Volunteer recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy, extending

our best wishes for his continued success as he compassionately and devotedly serves God and humanity.

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.