

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 426

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor Susan Long, 2025 Professional Award 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 Susan Long of Knoxville, who was recently named the 2025 Professional Award 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, Ms. Long earned her undergraduate degree in marketing and completed master's degree coursework in advertising at the University of Tennessee, after which she began her professional journey in teaching and real estate; however, it was in 1985 that she found her true calling—serving older adults; and

WHEREAS, she began this chapter of her professional life as an administrator at the Commonwealth Senior Living facility, where her leadership quickly made an impact, leading to full occupancy within three years; and

WHEREAS, Susan Long went on to serve as the marketing and management coordinator for Mountain Brook Village and later the administrator at Atria Weston Place before joining Baptist Health System in 1996 as the director of Senior Services; and

WHEREAS, during her nine-year tenure with Baptist Health System, Ms. Long developed and marketed eight Senior Health Centers targeting patients aged fifty and older; her innovative approach led to the creation of comprehensive ancillary services, including social work, dietitian consultations, exercise programs, support groups, immunization clinics, foot care, massage therapy, and wellness initiatives; and

WHEREAS, she later lent her expertise to Covenant Health and East Tennessee Personal Care Service, where she continued advocating for underserved older populations; her skill in communication and outreach helped amplify the needs and voices of vulnerable individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Susan Long was named the third director of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Office on Aging, in which capacity she led a team of fifty employees and oversaw twenty-four programs, steering the agency with compassion and vision and effecting meaningful change for residents of the region; and

WHEREAS, even after her retirement from the Office on Aging, she remained active in contributing to special projects at CAC; her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic included coordinating vaccine clinics and wellness outreach, and she played pivotal roles in the 2020 Census efforts and CAC's sixtieth anniversary celebration; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her professional endeavors, Susan Long has served her community as a ruling elder at Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, vice president of Keep Knoxville Beautiful, a member of the CAC Board of Directors, president of the John T. O'Connor Senior Center Advisory Board, vice president of Second Harvest Food Bank, a member of the

Bar Auxiliary of Knoxville, and chair of the West High School PTSO – Building and Grounds;
and

WHEREAS, for more than four decades, Ms. Long has exemplified servant leadership through her unwavering commitment to older adults; her career is a testament to the power of compassionate leadership, and her work has touched the lives of thousands, leaving a lasting legacy of dignity, advocacy, and care for older adults and their families; and

WHEREAS, Susan Long 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 Susan Long, 2025
Professional Award recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy, extending
our best wishes for her continued success.

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.