

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1113

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Steve Johnson of Bristol.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this General Assembly should acknowledge and applaud those community leaders who are wholly devoted to enhancing the quality of life for their fellow citizens and improving and enriching the place they all call home; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Steve Johnson, who has distinguished himself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the president of Johnson Commercial Development, Steve Johnson founded the company in 1995 and oversees all aspects of development, including property acquisitions, leasing, sales, financing, construction, and operations; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Commercial Development has been responsible for much of the growth in the Tri-Cities region, including the company's largest singular development project, The Pinnacle, located off Interstate 81 in Bristol, Tennessee; with more than \$150 million in private investment, The Pinnacle opened up to the public in 2014 and is fast becoming the premier lifestyle shopping venue in the region; and

WHEREAS, a native of Huntsville, Alabama, Mr. Johnson attended high school in Oneonta, Alabama, where he was a standout athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball, as well as excelling in track and field; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson was recruited by legendary head coach Bill Dooley to play football for Virginia Tech; an All-American honorable mention during his junior and senior years at Virginia Tech, Mr. Johnson led the Hokies with thirty-five receptions as a senior; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Virginia Tech in 1987, Mr. Johnson was picked in the sixth round of the 1988 draft by the New England Patriots; he played one season in the NFL, but it was a memorable one, with several holdovers from the 1985 AFC championship team and four quarterbacks: Tony Eason, Steve Grogan, Doug Flutie, and Tom Ramsey; and

WHEREAS, Steve Johnson played alongside receivers Irving Fryar and former University of Tennessee All-American Stanley Morgan; his NFL career was cut short, however, by a knee injury as he played one preseason game with the Dallas Cowboys in 1990; and

WHEREAS, not losing his competitive fire, Steve Johnson embarked upon a second sporting career as a race car driver, making four starts in the Rolex 24 at Daytona and placing second in the Ferrari Series in 2016 before retiring in 2017; and

WHEREAS, generous with his time, expertise, and financial backing, Mr. Johnson donated a building for the construction of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum in 2004 and is a board member of United Way of Bristol; he also remains strongly connected to his alma mater, Virginia Tech, and has contributed to the construction of a new practice field and the renovation of portions of Merryman Athletic Facility; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Steve Johnson is the proud father of three children: his son, Steven, who played quarterback at Tennessee High School and recently signed to play collegiately at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; his oldest daughter, Paulena, who is a graduate of Southern Methodist University; and his youngest daughter, Lexi, who is a sophomore at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Johnson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; 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 Steve Johnson for his innumerable contributions to the

citizens of this State and extend to him our best wishes for continued success 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.