



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 461

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Reverend Donald "Ray" Gardner for forty years of meritorious service to Oaklawn Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Donald "Ray" Gardner is one such stalwart servant of the Lord, who faithfully serves as the minister of Oaklawn Baptist Church in Winchester; and

WHEREAS, born on March 9, 1942, in Lincoln County, Ray Gardner began his ministry at Oaklawn Baptist Church on June 28, 1971; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Gardner's inspired leadership, the congregation has grown from just over 100 members to its current faithful church membership of 1,000; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gardner has been instrumental in successfully leading Oaklawn Baptist Church through a number of significant growth periods; in addition to eliminating the church's debts, he helped the church establish a thrift store, church directory, bus ministry, and many other programs, serving people from nursery age to senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, he completed a major construction program, which included three different phases of remodeling, additions, and new buildings; and

WHEREAS, Brother Ray makes it a point to visit any member of his congregation when they are down or in need; wherever it may be, he takes care of his "flock"; and

WHEREAS, though Reverend Gardner loves all people, he has a very special place in his heart for children, and he is well-respected by all of Franklin County for his spiritual leadership and the love he shows to everyone; and

WHEREAS, Ray Gardner is thankful for the loving companionship of his wife of forty-nine years, Brenda Hyatt, and they are the proud parents of three children and their spouses: Jeff and Melany Gardner, Jackie and Mike Jernigan, and Janna and Kirby Walker; and

WHEREAS, the Gardners are also the devoted grandparents of Chase Gardner, Kaylee Gardner, Kevin Jernigan, Kyle Jernigan, and Dalton Davidson; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gardner truly exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable forty years as a humble servant of God, Reverend Ray Gardner has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many members of Oaklawn Baptist Church; now, therefore,

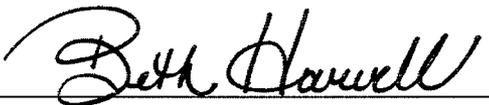
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Reverend Donald "Ray" Gardner for forty years of meritorious service to Oaklawn Baptist Church, thank him for his humble servitude, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his fruitful ministry.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 461

ADOPTED: May 21, 2011

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2011

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR