



# *State of Tennessee*

## **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 590**

**By Senator Stevens**

**and**

**Representatives Darby, Reedy**

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joe Atnip on his distinguished service to the State of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 27th Judicial District on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, elected to his first term in 1990, Joe Atnip served with distinction as the first and only District Public Defender for the 27th Judicial District for thirty-two years before taking his much-deserved retirement in 2022; and

WHEREAS, born in Henderson on February 5, 1955, Mr. Atnip is a 1973 graduate of Germantown High School; as a teenager, he lived and worked on a farm in an Amish community, where he learned their culture, in addition to farming and gardening skills; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip is a proud veteran of the United States Navy, in which he served from 1977 to 1979 and as a member of the Ceremonial Guard in Washington, D.C.; he is well-known in his community for his impressive rifle drill routine and has performed in schools, clubs, senior centers, and churches for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Joe Atnip graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1979 with high honors and Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1982; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the public defender's office, Mr. Atnip was admitted to the bar by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1982; he is admitted to practice before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and has argued cases before the Federal District Court and the Tennessee Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, he was in private practice in Kenton and Greenfield and subsequently served as an assistant public defender from 1986 to 1987 before running for office; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Joe Atnip served the Tennessee Public Defenders Conference in several offices, including president, and for twelve years, he served the towns of Greenfield and Sharon as city judge; he has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip is a member of the American Legion and a long-standing member of the Greenfield Rotary Club, where he is a Paul Harris Fellow and has twice served as president; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Joe Atnip enjoys the love and support of his wife of forty years, Kathy, with whom he resides on their farm in an ancestral home built by his great-great-grandfather, and they are the proud parents of Katie and Becky and grandparents of Lloyd, Dale, and Grace; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip has attended Greenfield Church of Christ for thirty-three years, and he previously served as pastor of the Kimery Road Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Joe Atnip demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Joe Atnip on his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 27th Judicial District and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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.

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ADOPTED: April 19, 2023

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2023

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR