

SENATE RESOLUTION 32

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jo Anna Morris on receiving a 2011 Sterling Award.

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 estimable individual is Jo Anna Morris, a recipient of the 2011 Sterling Award; and

WHEREAS, the awards were created by the Jackson Business and Professional Women and *The Jackson Sun* to honor those women in West Tennessee who have achieved a significant level of success; and

WHEREAS, nominees must meet several requirements: they must live or work in West Tennessee, outside of Shelby County; they must be leaders in business or their professions; they must display creativity and innovation and contribute these talents to the growth of their professions; and they must contribute time and energy to community improvement; and

WHEREAS, more than seventy nominations were received and, of those, twenty were chosen as the 20 Most Influential Women of West Tennessee, each of whom received a Sterling Award; and

WHEREAS, award recipient Jo Anna Morris resides in Brownsville and is a graduate of Haywood High School; and

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Union University and is a graduate of the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Morris serves with acumen and alacrity as the Community Bank President of First South Bank; and

WHEREAS, she has been employed by First South Bank since it opened in Brownsville in 1997 and her leadership role has grown as the bank has grown to two locations with \$70 million in deposits; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Ms. Morris has graciously donated her time and energies to numerous organizations, including serving as a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador; board member of the Brownsville Haywood County Senior Center; charter member of the Exchange Club/Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, for which she has also served as Golf Tournament Chair, Past President, and fundraiser; and past member of the YMCA Board of Directors and Chamber of Commerce Board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Jo Anna Morris is a member of the Leadership Haywood County Class of 2000, she was named the Brownsville/Haywood County Woman of the Year in 2006, she participated in the WestStar Community Leadership program in 2009, she received the Ms. Haywood County and Best Boss Award in 2009, and she was honored in the *Brownsville States-Graphic* "Best of the Best" special edition newspaper; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Jo Anna Morris takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned this State the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Ms. Morris, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Jo Anna Morris on receiving a 2011 Sterling Award, thank her for all she has done to make her community and this State a better place, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her 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.