

**RECESSED MEETING  
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 13, 2017**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE            )**            Recessed Meeting  
**COUNTY OF HAMILTON         )**            December 13, 2017

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017, a Recessed Meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was begun and held at the Courthouse, in the City of Chattanooga, in the County Commission Room, when the following proceedings were held, to wit:--

:11

Present and presiding was the Honorable Randy Fairbanks, Chairman. County Clerk Bill Knowles called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Bankston, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Fairbanks. Total present – 9. Total absent -0.

Commissioner Mackey had previously informed the Chairman that he would be attending a ground breaking in his district. Commissioner Fairbanks acknowledged his arrival after the roll call.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff, County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, and County Auditor Jenneth Randall.

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:53

Chairman Fairbanks introduced Pastor Bruce Sloan, Ridgeview Baptist Church, who gave the invocation. Chairman Fairbanks invited Jack Blanco to lead in the pledge to the flag.

Chairman Fairbanks recognized State Representative Mike Carter in the audience.

**PRESENTATION – CHRISTY GILLENWATER – NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PRESIDENT**

4:32

Chairman Fairbanks welcomed Bill Kilbride, former President of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce to today's meeting. Mr. Kilbride, who is retiring this month, thanked Mayor Copping and Commission members for their support and encouragement over the past few years and stated how helpful they have been towards his success. He introduced newly elected Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Christy Gillenwater, who has assumed the position upon Mr. Kilbride's retirement.

6:09

Ms. Gillenwater thanked Mayor Copping and Commissioners and noted the importance of their partnership and investment in the Chamber of Commerce.

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8:20                   Members of the Commission and Mayor Coppinger welcomed Ms. Gillenwater and thanked Mr. Kilbride for his service to Hamilton County and the Chamber of Commerce.

9:47                   At this time, Mr. Kilbride and Ms. Gillenwater shook hands with members of the Commission, Attorney Taylor, and Mayor Coppinger.

**PRESENTATION – JACK BLANCO – OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVANT  
AWARD**

10:43                   Commissioner Smedley and Commissioner Bankston presented World War II and Korean War veteran Jack Blanco with an Outstanding Community Servant award. Mr. Blanco has spent his life in ministry as a pastor, professor, author, and dean of the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University. Commissioner Bankston detailed some of the history of Mr. Blanco’s life and invited him to the podium to tell his story.

12:00                   Mr. Blanco shared details about moving to Germany in 1938 to live with his grandparents, and his time spent in three different labor camps after WWII began. After his escape from a labor camp, he found U.S. forces who eventually allowed him to return home to the United States. He emphasized his joy at seeing the Statue of Liberty upon his return home. Mr. Blanco joined the Air Force and was later drafted into the

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Korean War where he was tasked with guiding planes into Korea without being detected. Mr. Blanco credited God for everything he has accomplished and overcome.

20:58

Executive Director of Network 7 Media Center and former student of Mr. Blanco Christopher Beason spoke about Mr. Blanco's accomplishments and his years of unselfish and dedicated service. Mr. Beason distributed copies of the "The Jack Blanco Story", a documentary he produced, to members of the Commission. A copy of the documentary was filed in the Clerk's Office. At this time, a round of applause was given.

24:24

State Representative Mike Carter presented Mr. Blanco with a Proclamation documenting his name, life, and story into the record of the State of Tennessee permanently. He noted a feature length film titled "Jack's War" detailing Mr. Blanco's early years is currently in production.

Mr. Blanco expressed his appreciation for the honor and recognition and reiterated his earlier comments crediting God for his accomplishments. Mr. Beason provided further details regarding the film "Jack's War", some of which will be filmed in Hamilton County. He thanked Mayor Coppinger for his support of the project.

30:00

At this time, Mr. Blanco shook hands with members of the Commission, Attorney Taylor, and Mayor Coppinger.

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Being no further business Chairman Fairbanks declared the Recessed Meeting  
adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



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William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

01-24-18

WJK

Date

Clerk's Initials