

2014 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 169

Offered February 27, 2014

Commending Eddie Sturgill.

Patron—Puckett

WHEREAS, Eddie Sturgill of Vansant, whose desire to help less fortunate families in his community resulted in the founding of the Coal Miners Christmas Fund Program in 2009, helps to ensure that every child in Buchanan County has a joyous Christmas; and

WHEREAS, a retired miner for CONSOL Energy, Inc., Eddie Sturgill became greatly concerned when friends and colleagues would talk of people they knew who were unable to provide toys and presents for their families for Christmas; he and his wife, Carol, decided to help; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Sturgill took on this charitable effort with great focus and determination; he contacted friends, neighbors, and former coworkers, and also approached the Buchanan County Department of Social Services, which was happy to be of assistance; and

WHEREAS, from its first year, the goal of the Coal Miners Christmas Fund was to make sure that each child who was served by the Department of Social Services would be given a toy and one other gift; for the 2013 holiday season, under Eddie Sturgill's guidance, the program received more than \$27,900 in donations; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Coal Miners Christmas Fund provided gifts to 597 Buchanan County residents, including 532 children; each child received a coat, a pair of pants, a shirt, and a special gift; donors included local residents and coal companies; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years, the Coal Miners Christmas Fund also has provided coats to many county residents; Eddie Sturgill has organized the coat drives, and funds also have been available to purchase new coats; and

WHEREAS, with assistance from other local organizations, the Coal Miners Christmas Fund Program has helped families who lost their homes due to fires and has provided fruit baskets to the elderly and shut-in in Buchanan County; Eddie Sturgill is proud of how the fund helps people in need in many ways; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Eddie Sturgill of Vansant in Buchanan County for founding the Coal Miners Christmas Fund Program, helping to ensure that every child in Buchanan County celebrates a joyous Christmas; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Eddie Sturgill as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for his tireless efforts to help less fortunate citizens of Buchanan County.

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