

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 799

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Habitat for Humanity in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary institutions that work with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee is one such outstanding organization, which has remained true to its mission of building homes for families living in unacceptable conditions; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Habitat for Humanity have served their friends and neighbors across the state with acumen, dedication, and compassion for the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, understanding that there is much more to building a community than building a home, the organization has collaborated with individuals, corporations, faith groups, and its Habitat homeowners to achieve the worthy goal of providing suitable housing to families in distress; and

WHEREAS, Appalachia Habitat was the first chapter created in Tennessee in 1978, and today, forty-five chapters serve more than sixty counties; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis is ranked second nationally for the number of families served by a chapter; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the fourth-largest builder of Habitat homes in the country, with more than 4,800 new homes built and more than 800 homes rehabilitated or repaired, providing shelter and ensuring the security of more than 20,000 children and adults; and

WHEREAS, state chapters also manage thirty-five ReStores, selling new and gently used donated building materials and household products, thereby keeping items out of the landfill and providing funding to serve more families; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2003, Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee was created as a state organization to support the work of Habitat chapters through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, fundraising, and technical support; and

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee is especially grateful for the support and leadership of one of its founding members, the late John K. Folger, Sr., who served in the United States Navy in World War II, served as the first executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and retired as an emeritus professor from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity is celebrating forty years of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in Tennessee, and it is wholly fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor and commend this exemplary organization for its vital work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Habitat for Humanity in Tennessee, applauding the organization for its unwavering dedication to providing quality housing to those in need and for making the State of Tennessee an even better place to live.

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