

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 835

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the Volunteer Energy Cooperative on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in recognizing those estimable organizations that have established a tradition of providing quality service and genuine concern and commitment to their community; and

WHEREAS, one such venerable institution is the Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC), which will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary in May of 2010, marking a milestone of unparalleled service; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1930s, only four out of every one hundred Tennessee farms had access to any form of electricity; and

WHEREAS, realizing that electricity was a necessary element in the growth of rural Tennessee, Willis A. Shadow and J.W. Lillard united to form a cooperative that would furnish electric power to the fine citizens of Meigs County; and

WHEREAS, adhering to the principles set forth in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act, Meigs County Electric Membership Cooperation was chartered on May 29, 1935, as a member-owned electric power cooperative, and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 1936, the cooperative energized its first power lines which supplied power to seventeen counties throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in its field, Meigs County Electric Membership Cooperation was the first electric cooperative in the United States to take advantage of funding provided by the Rural Electrification Act; and

WHEREAS, enjoying unprecedented growth and development, the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation changed its name to the Volunteer Electric Cooperative in 1939 and to the Volunteer Energy Cooperative in 2001; and

WHEREAS, VEC has flourished since its humble beginnings, growing into one of the largest electric cooperatives in the United States and boasting over 109,000 members and nearly 9,000 miles of line throughout almost 2,900 square miles in the Tennessee counties of Bledsoe, Bradley, Cumberland, Fentress, Hamilton, Loudon, Meigs, McMinn, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Scott, and White; and

WHEREAS, today, the Cooperative is capably governed by a twelve-member board of directors, who are elected by a wise and discerning membership, and its future remains bright because the management's stalwart commitment to provide its members with reliable electrical services at an affordable price has never wavered; and

WHEREAS, tireless in its efforts to expand both the quality and quantity of the services it offers, VEC provides its membership with energy efficiency tools and programs, youth services, scholarships, sponsorships, education programs and services, and technical and financial support; and

WHEREAS, as a core part of its mission, VEC is deeply devoted to economic development and provides the funding and support services necessary to develop opportunities for its communities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, for their many achievements in providing both quality and value to their members and their continued commitment to providing for Tennessee's energy needs, we are proud to salute the management and employees of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative on attaining this very special milestone; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the management and hard-working employees of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative in celebrating the organization's seventy-fifth anniversary, extend to them our gratitude for their exceptional service to the citizens of Tennessee, and wish them every success in all their 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.