

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1369

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James "Jim" Herschel Boehms on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Herschel Boehms celebrated his 100th birthday on February 15, 2024, a milestone commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Jim Boehms enrolled as a student at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, now Tennessee Technological University (Tennessee Tech), through the National Youth Administration (NYA) program, which paid for his tuition; and

WHEREAS, his college education was put on hold on December 7, 1941, in the wake of the surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the Japanese; and

WHEREAS, with the United States at war, Mr. Boehms worked for a time at a factory building planes for the military in Omaha, Nebraska, before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps, now the U.S. Air Force, in 1943; and

WHEREAS, after serving his nation during World War II, Jim Boehms was honorably discharged from his military service in 1946 and returned to his studies at Tennessee Tech on the G.I. Bill to finish his degree; and

WHEREAS, during his senior year at Tennessee Tech, Mr. Boehms put his electrical engineering education to practical use when he and his father wired their family's new home for electricity; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boehms graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1949 and, after working for a concrete-testing company for two years, was offered a position with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boehms served with distinction as an engineer at TVA for thirty-three years before taking his well-deserved retirement in 1984; his many engineering accomplishments included his work on all the coal-fired plants in the TVA fleet as well as his groundbreaking work on TVA's first and largest nuclear power plant, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant; and

WHEREAS, he has enjoyed every minute of his retirement and is grateful for a successful career and retirement plan with TVA that afforded him the opportunity to travel with his wife, Lyla, until her passing in 2014; and

WHEREAS, over the decades, Jim Boehms has stayed connected with Tennessee Tech, attending sporting events, sitting in the President's Box at football games, and serving as treasurer of the Tennessee Tech alumni chapter in his area; and

WHEREAS, he has chosen to give back to his alma mater for more than forty-five years, giving to numerous areas on campus, including the Eagle Assistance grant and the school's nursing building, Bell Hall, but the majority of his gifts have been designated for the College of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boehms's love for Tennessee Tech and the field of electrical engineering inspired other family members to pursue a similar career path, including his nephew, Dennis Boehms, and his niece, Joni Batson, who both earned degrees in electrical engineering from the university in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boehms exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, as Mr. Boehms enters his 100th year, he is still an active and productive member of society who is admired for his wisdom, guidance, and generosity; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate James "Jim" Herschel Boehms on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.