

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8026 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor Representative Harry T. Burn, the deciding vote on the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, for more than a century, women of the United States of America were not entitled by law to the full rights and privileges that were available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women was passed by the United States Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified by thirty-five states; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 1920, the Tennessee Senate voted in favor of ratification, and on August 18, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified by the vote of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Harry T. Burn of Niota cast the deciding vote on that historic day, as documented on pages 91 and 92 of the 1920 Journal of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Burn's deciding vote has been accredited by historians Dr. Marjorie Spruill, history professor at the University of South Carolina; Elaine Weiss, bestselling author of *The Woman's Hour*, and Paula F. Casey, editor of *The Perfect 36: Tennessee Delivers Woman Suffrage*; and

WHEREAS, his historic vote was also highlighted in the Ken Burns documentary and companion book *Not For Ourselves Alone* and the Nashville Public Television documentary *By One Vote: Woman Suffrage in the South*, as Dr. Carole Bucy describes his deciding vote; and

WHEREAS, the role of the State of Tennessee and the deciding vote of Representative Harry T. Burn was instrumental in achieving the right to vote for all women of the United States, being the thirty-sixth and final state needed to ratify the amendment; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent achievement in the liberties and rights of women of the United States of America, its memorable anniversary, and the celebrations that will commemorate the occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Representative Harry T. Burn on the centennial celebration of Tennessee's ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which gave the women of the United States the right to vote.

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.