

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 872  
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor the medical professionals, administration and staff of Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro on the occasion of their seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary medical institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are credits to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Middle Tennessee Medical Center (MTMC), which this year celebrates seventy-five years of providing exceptional health care services to the good people of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, steadfast in its mission of operating "for the welfare of mankind," the Middle Tennessee Medical Center, located in Murfreesboro, daily undertakes the commitment to serve all individuals needing medical care without regard to race, creed, color, or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, as part of a Child Health Demonstration project sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund of New York City in the mid 1920s, Rutherford County was visited by a

representative of the Commonwealth Fund, which was founded by the widow of Stephen Vandenberg Harkness, in 1918, to assist health-related projects throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the Representative of the Commonwealth Fund was asked to support the establishment of a hospital in Middle Tennessee; in 1925, the Commonwealth Fund agreed, through a philanthropic grant, to provide for the creation of a 37–bed hospital at a cost of \$161,620 in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee Medical Center was opened with a formal ceremony as the Rutherford Hospital, Inc. on May 2, 1927, and the following morning at 7:30 am the first patient was admitted; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in the establishment of the Rutherford Hospital, Mr. Simeon B. Christy and Mr. Simpson Houston, astutely served initial terms as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, the Rutherford Hospital was reorganized and James R. Arnhart undertook the leadership of what is now Middle Tennessee Medical Center; during his thirty-three years of meritorious service, he initiated a series of projects which laid the foundation for the now thriving MTMC; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Rutherford Hospital added additional Operating, Delivery, and Emergency rooms as well as facilities for a Clinical Laboratory, X-ray, Central Supply, and thirty additional inpatient beds; in 1962, the hospital established additional Operating and Emergency rooms and created a Pharmacy, a Medical Library, and forty additional inpatient beds; in 1967, the hospital established a new Clinical Laboratory, a Pediatrics Unit, a Critical Care facility, a Laundry, a Kitchen, a Cafeteria, and sixty-six additional inpatient beds, and additional Radiology, Emergency and OB Suites; and

WHEREAS, continuing to grow to meet the needs of the communities it serves, the Rutherford Hospital added new Pharmacy, Medical Library, Medical Records, and Nuclear Medicine facilities, and established three additional operating rooms, Intensive Care and

Coronary Care Units, and eighty-nine additional inpatient beds, bringing the hospital to its current licensure of 288 beds, in 1978; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the name of the hospital was changed from the Rutherford Hospital to the Middle Tennessee Medical Center, Inc. to better reflect the range of services provided and the regional communities it serves, which include the Counties of Rutherford, Bedford, Cannon, Warren, and Coffee; and

WHEREAS, MTMC became affiliated with the Baptist and Saint Thomas Hospitals of Nashville on September 4, 1986, when the Board of Directors of the Medical Center transferred its ownership to the Middle Tennessee Health Corporation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee Medical Center's advantageous partnership with Baptist and Saint Thomas Hospitals, has allowed the Medical Center to maintain its not-for-profit status and continue its policy of providing health care services for all who need them, while enhancing the quality of care provided through a joining of resources with established Christian health care ministries; and

WHEREAS, the \$40 million investment by Baptist and St. Thomas Hospitals made it possible for MTMC to establish the Christy-Houston Foundation, which was fittingly named for the two initial Chairmen of the Rutherford Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Christy-Houston Foundation, whose mission is to improve the quality of life in Rutherford County with emphasis on health care, has provided millions of dollars in new and expanded facilities for Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, soon after its affiliation with two of the strongest tertiary care facilities in the region, Middle Tennessee Medical Center experienced phenomenal growth, which has continued unabated in the years since; and

WHEREAS, Art Hastings accepted the position of President/CEO of Middle Tennessee Medical Center in 1986; under his progressive leadership, MTMC stayed current with ever increasing technology and with the expanding population of its service area; and

WHEREAS, immediately after the affiliation with Baptist and St. Thomas, Middle Tennessee Medical Center generously donated a building to the Rutherford County Emergency Medical Service for its headquarters, saving the County an estimated \$200,000; during the first year of its new affiliation, MTMC added laser equipment, began the use of radioactive isotopes in treating cancer, initiated nursing scholarships for area students, expanded community health classes, and opened the PACE Center to the public; and

WHEREAS, committed to providing comprehensive care, Middle Tennessee Medical Center adopted the Hospice of Murfreesboro in 1998; begun as a for-profit organization, the hospice provides end-of-life care for patients with terminal illnesses and support for families and friends; and

WHEREAS, since their collaboration, MTMC and the Hospice of Murfreesboro has provided grief support groups for people of all ages, Camp Forget Me Not for children, and education to various service organizations and churches; as a department of MTMC and through donations made to this most beneficial program, the Hospice provides its patients with money for food, utilities, and sitters, regardless of insurance coverage or ability of the patient to pay; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Middle Tennessee Medical Center began a \$15 million dollar construction project which turned the main entrance of the hospital to face Highland Avenue and created new Admitting, Laboratory, Diagnostic Imaging, and Emergency Department facilities; the Baptist Women's Pavilion portion of the expansion significantly increased and improved Labor and Delivery, Obstetrics, and Nursery facilities; and

WHEREAS, in the following years, MTMC has added Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Advanced CT, Lithotripsy services, and a \$2.8 million Special Procedures/Angiography Suite; MTMC has also initiated the practice of low-cost mammograms and free prostate cancer screening, as well as a host of other screenings and educational programs designed to assist Rutherford Countians in maintaining good health; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the MTMC Cardiac Catheterization Lab was established and the Sleep Center at MTMC opened a year later; and

WHEREAS, during this time, Middle Tennessee Medical Center also partnered with the Christy-Houston Foundation to establish clinical scholarships at the University of Tennessee Medical School to assist in the enhancement of primary care in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, MTMC began work on a 40,000 square foot replacement project for a new Surgical Suite; the \$8.5 million dollar facility opened in early 1997 and included eight spacious operating rooms and support areas; and

WHEREAS, the late 1990s marked a remarkable period of physical growth for the Medical Center; MTMC expanded the hospital's main campus with a \$30 million building project, adding the Outpatient Diagnostic Center, a Women's Imaging Center, and the Middle Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Center, which was a joint venture between MTMC and United Surgical Partners; and

WHEREAS, to care for its youngest and most fragile patients, Baptist's Women's Pavilion at MTMC initiated Neonatology Services for the care of premature and ill newborns and infants; at this same time, the Labor and Delivery area was again enlarged to accommodate the increased demand for delivery services; and

WHEREAS, MTMC initiated a Quality Improvement Program in 1991, and has since been recognized three times with the Tennessee Quality Achievement Award, which is given to organizations that, through commitment and the practice of quality principles, have demonstrated significant progress in building sound processes from which others can learn; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2000, Middle Tennessee Medical Center officially opened the Regional Cancer Center, which houses advanced treatment planning systems, a treatment simulator, and an 18 MTV linear accelerator; and

WHEREAS, recently, MTMC, by means of an elevated crosswalk, has joined two significant portions of its expanded campus and opened a new Diagnostic Labs suite, which

houses expanded Gastroenterology, Bronchoscopy, and Cardiac Catheterization Facilities, as well as a Pain Clinic; and

WHEREAS, always striving to improve patient care, MTMC has recently added and enhanced many of its service and treatments, including adding Lymphedema Services through a partnership with MTMC's Rehabilitation Services and the Scotlyn Group, offering experimental Stroke Treatment, and adding Lactation Services for new breastfeeding mothers; and

WHEREAS, the staff of Middle Tennessee Medical Center and Baptist Women's Pavilion has grown to include over 1100 employees who are all trained in the core values of the hospital: Compassionate and Responsive Care; Continuous Quality Improvement; Respect, Honesty, and Trust; and Responsible Use of Resources; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2002, MTMC became a member of Saint Thomas Health Services and Ascension Health; with this successful partnership, MTMC welcomed a new President/CEO, Bruce James, on April 4, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the first seventy-five years of Middle Tennessee Medical Center have been remarkable for extensive physical growth and expanded services; MTMC's future plans include a \$6 million dollar Emergency Department expansion, which, once completed, will be able to accommodate nearly 64,000 visits per year; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is fortunate to have such an outstanding resource as Middle Tennessee Medical Center; for seventy-five years, MTMC has conscientiously met the health care needs of the citizenry of Middle Tennessee, providing an optimum level of care for all citizens regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is privileged to recognize Middle Tennessee Medical Center for its countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

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

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Middle Tennessee Medical Center on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, commend its medical professionals, administrators, and staff on the outstanding quality of care they provide, and extend to them our best wishes for all 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.