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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 581  
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Deborah Newcomb of Lenoir City, Tennessee, on being chosen a 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a long and proud tradition of being the "Volunteer State," a nickname that originated in the War of 1812, in which the volunteer soldiers from Tennessee displayed tremendous valor at the Battle of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, it is very encouraging to know that Tennessee's young citizens are carrying on and enhancing this time-honored tradition; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 honorees for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award include Deborah Newcomb of Lenoir City, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished recognition, which salutes exceptional Volunteer work, is jointly sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential Financial; and

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WHEREAS, Deborah, a Senior at Lenoir City High School, started a project to provide more than 2,000 hand-sewn, custom-designed items to help the elderly in her community recover from illness or accident; and

WHEREAS, while volunteering at a nursing home, she befriended a woman who loved to sew before a stroke stole her ability to thread a needle; and

WHEREAS, Deborah responded by making her friend an activity blanket to help with her coordination and putting Velcro enclosures on her clothing to help her dress herself; and

WHEREAS, that simple start was the birth of Deborah's ACES (Aid and Comfort for the Elderly) project, whereby she worked with two area nursing homes to determine what items were needed most and to expand the initial program making activity blankets, wheelchair and walker bags, texture books, and adult-sized bibs; and

WHEREAS, as the project grew, she called on members of her 4-H group to help and encourage local businesses to donate materials; three years later, the program has proven to be extremely successful; and

WHEREAS, Deborah also hosts sewing events and has organized "Make It and Take It," sessions to enable others to take patterns back to their own clubs and make items for donation; and

WHEREAS, as a state honoree, Deborah will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D. C. on May 4, 2002, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we specially honor this fine Tennessee Volunteer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Deborah Newcomb on being chosen a 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner and wish her well in her 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.