

SENATE RESOLUTION 72  
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Jessie Rodgers upon her laudable and astute service to the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Rodgers is most assuredly one such outstanding citizen; on January 22, 2001, she was elected President of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA), an organization that promotes strong neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished scholar, Ms. Rodgers received a Bachelor's degree in Social Administration from Tennessee State University; she earned her special education teacher certification from Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, A special education instructor for 28 years in the DeSoto County School System, she currently teaches ninth through twelfth grade World History and United States

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History and Government at Southaven High School; in this influential position she has earned the respect of her students, peers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work and her dedication to quality education; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Rodgers, concerned about loitering on a nearby street corner, helped start the Terry Circle Block Club; serving as block captain, she is the driving force behind the annual Christmas light display on Terry Circle and Terry Circle's observance of National Night Out, an anti-crime vigil, which is held every August; and

WHEREAS, Raised by her grandparents, Howard and Lenora Wells in Memphis, Ms. Rogers started a block club for the Barksdale area north of Vollintine as a tribute to her grandmother; her grandfather and grandmother instilled in her an exemplary work ethic and a sense of responsibility to herself and her community; and

WHEREAS, She began her diligent service with the VECA Board in 1997; in the past, she has worked as a Volunteer Coordinator for VECA and served for two years as its Vice President; and

WHEREAS, One of her first official acts as President was to draft and sign a letter asking the police department to continue the Officer Next Door Program, which allows police officers to drive home squad cars; supporters of the program believe that a visible police presence in the community helps deter crime; and

WHEREAS, An ambitious and dedicated administrator, Jessie Rodgers has set the following admirable goals for VECA: to provide more activities for old and young residents, encourage property owners to fix up homes and businesses, landscape the Jackson Avenue median, persuade more businesses to join VECA, convince the police to open a neighborhood police substation, and maintain the diversity of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Rodgers also plans to hold a series of practical workshops for area residents on various community concerns, including crime watch, block clubs, taxes, school issues, Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Division, housing, and neighborhood cleanup; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work with VECA, she still finds time to lend her remarkable talents to such notable organizations as the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, TSU Alumni, and the Renaissance Club at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, A good neighbor and friend, Jessie Rodgers epitomizes the spirit of a true Tennessean; as president of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association, she serves as a guiding light of civic leadership and wisdom for the members of her community; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Jessie Rodgers for her dedication to her community and fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor Jessie Rodgers for her meritorious service to the Vollentine-Evergreen Community Association, congratulate her on her installation as President, and commend her years of service as a teacher and a community activist. We also extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we applaud the members of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association for their ongoing commitment to their community and their service to the good people of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.