

SENATE RESOLUTION 135
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mrs. Carlotta Stewart Watson for her lifetime of dedication to the students of Booker T. Washington High School and to the City of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their lives to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Carlotta Stewart Washington is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, born on October 10, 1900, Mrs. Watson possessed an innate desire to teach and to direct her life to making a positive impact on young people; and

WHEREAS, this noble ambition led Mrs. Watson to pursue her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from LeMoyne-Own College in Memphis, and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Michigan, Carlotta Watson accepted the position of Guidance Counselor at Memphis' Booker T. Washington High School; and

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WHEREAS, she became the first qualified and certified counselor at Booker T. Washington High School, in which position she served with acumen and alacrity for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watson coupled her formal education with the life experiences she gained from her travels to Europe, Africa, and South America, thus bringing a unique and creative perspective to counseling her students; and

WHEREAS, she has been an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watson diligently worked on numerous efforts to provide equal opportunities for the students of Booker T. Washington High School including, the organization and presentation of the first "Job Clinic" at the school; and

WHEREAS, Carlotta is an invaluable member of the Memphis community as she has participated in numerous public and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, she has received numerous awards and accolades for her dedication to the young people of Memphis and her community involvement including a citation from *The Commercial Appeal* as the "Counselor for the Forgotten Student"; the Steadfast Award from the Women of Achievement Organization; the first Comforter Award from the Black Heritage Celebration; and the Social Security Administration's Lifetime of Achievements and Contributions Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watson has also been honored for organizing the first graduate chapter of the international sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.; for opening the first Stork's Nest Center, a beneficial project recognized by the March of Dimes, in Memphis, and was recognized at the 50th Anniversary of radio station WDIA, as a "Trail Blazer," for her exemplary service as "Aunt Carrie" on a radio counseling show; and

WHEREAS, even at the age of 101, she is still very active in the community as she takes time to read to the blind every week; and

WHEREAS, her remarkable dedication truly serves as an inspiration to all educators and students alike, and her unswerving commitment to community service is exemplary of the life of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watson epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized for her lifetime of service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Carlotta Stewart Watson for her lifetime of dedication to the students of Booker T. Washington High School and the City of Memphis, salute her exemplary life and commitment to personal excellence, 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.