

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 302

By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Marguerite Piazza as a second time recipient of the UNICO National Memphis Chapter's UNICO Civic Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Piazza is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors and is described as a woman of astonishing talent, boundless generosity, and unselfish charity. Because of these noteworthy characteristics, this is Marguerite Piazza's second time as the recipient of the UNICO National Memphis Chapter's UNICO Civic Award; and

WHEREAS, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Marguerite Piazza was a highly successful star of early television broadcast from New York City, an especially popular figure on the "Show of Shows" program, she shared the limelight with many well-known American entertainment idols; and

WHEREAS, as a highly respected member of her community and profession, Marguerite Piazza served with distinction for eighteen years as a headliner at supper clubs and venues in many U.S. cities from New York to Los Angeles. She is a star of international acclaim and recognition, having performed at the most prestigious opera centers in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as an entertainment artist, Marguerite Piazza has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, even during her hectic schedule and tiring profession, this remarkable woman has found the energy to support St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; among her other charity sponsorships, Marguerite Piazza began one of the most important fundraisers for St. Jude in 1975, the Marguerite Piazza Gala, and has worked assiduously on this annual event, raising millions of dollars through her efforts; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Piazza's faith and good will for charity have transcended personal tragedies and dark moments that not many could endure without her similar inner strength and fortitude. She is a remarkable lady blessed with talent, and, in addition to her annual Gala for St. Jude, she has pledged a continued effort for Peter Villa Nursing Home in Memphis, which began with a scheduled fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day in March of 2004; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Piazza's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Piazza is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Piazza is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Marguerite Piazza as a second time recipient of the UNICO National Memphis Chapter's UNICO Civic Award and extend to her our best wishes for every future success

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