

HOUSE RESOLUTION 344

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Beverly Johnson for thirty years of meritorious service in broadcast journalism.

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

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of radio broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Beverly “Bev” Johnson, who has served thirty wonderful years in broadcast journalism; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis and raised in Michigan, Bev Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Rust College and a Master of Science degree in Educational and Media Technology from Jackson State University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson began her illustrious career in radio broadcasting thirty years ago in Jackson, Mississippi, and since then, she has ably fulfilled the duties of a variety of radio station positions including, disc jockey, Public Service Director, News/Community Affairs Director, Programming Assistant, Marketing Assistant, and talk show host; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson currently serves as the news anchor and talk show host for Clear Channel’s radio station, WDIA in Memphis, where she hosts the number one talk show in the city, “The Bev Johnson Show”, now in its twenty-first year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson’s broadcasting and communications talents have been recognized by her receipt of several awards and accolades; she received the UNCF Outstanding Alumnus Award for 1996; was the recipient of the 1989, 1991, 1992, and 1996

News/Public Affairs Director of the Year Award from the National Black Programmers Coalition; was nominated for The National Association of Broadcaster's Marconi Award as Personality of the Year for 1993, 1994, and 1995, and received the 1996 *Billboard* Award for Personality of the Year; and

WHEREAS, as an instructor of fine arts and speech at Southwest Tennessee Community College, Ms. Johnson often reaches out to those in need, offering sound advice and providing a sympathetic ear; she volunteers at the Shelby County Drug Court and is the co-owner of Heart 2 Heart Collaborations Counseling Services, in addition to hosting a cable television show, called *Affairs of the Heart*; and

WHEREAS, the quintessential "pillar of the community," Bev Johnson is a valued member of several civic groups and organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta; the board of directors of the Rock N Soul Museum and The National Black Programmers Coalition; the Memphis Area Planned Parenthood, of which she is a past board member; the mentoring program for fifth and sixth grade girls at Gordon Elementary School; and the Memphis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Radiothon, which she served as a past Chairman; and she served with distinction as the auctioneer for the Memphis Chapter Coalition of 100 Black Women's Annual Eligible Bachelor fundraiser and WKNO's Action Auction; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson also displays her Christian faith as an active and devout member of the Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, Bev Johnson epitomizes the spirit of dedication and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Bev Johnson for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its radio-listening citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and applaud Beverly Johnson for thirty years of meritorious service in radio broadcast

journalism, commend her for her peerless contributions to the Memphis community and the State of Tennessee, 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.