

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 677

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Hoil Walker upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, known far and wide as The World's Greatest Horse Show, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Hoil Walker, in recognition of his many years of fielding quality horses in the show ring and his stalwart support of the breed; and

WHEREAS, a life-long horseman, Mr. Walker traded a motorcycle for a walking mare named Blue Bonnet Sue when he was thirteen years old and showed her for the next three years; and

WHEREAS, throughout the past forty years, Hoil Walker has owned a number of outstanding Tennessee Walking Horses, including World Grand Champions The Touch, Touch-Me Not, and The Duck, and Reserve World Grand Champion and World Champion Prides Pattern, and; and

WHEREAS, a noted entrepreneur, Mr. Walker has founded several businesses, such as GTC, Inc. and Haulers Insurance Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Hoil Walker is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than fifty years, Nancy Woody Walker; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Mr. Walker has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and applaud Mr. Hoil Walker, an accomplished owner and staunch supporter of the Tennessee Walking Horse, on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame and commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

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