

SENATE RESOLUTION 253

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Urban League of Middle Tennessee upon the celebration of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of the good citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee is one such organization, as it is committed to promoting the interests of African-Americans and other minority groups so that they might achieve economic self-reliance, power, parity, and civil rights, thereby fulfilling the American dream; and

WHEREAS, established on April 15, 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee was conceived as an affiliate of the nation-wide apparatus of the Urban League, the country's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African-Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream of American life; and

WHEREAS, during its remarkable forty-year history, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee has based its philosophy of progress and equity on several guiding principles: all children deserve the opportunity to thrive by having a life free of poverty in a safe home environment with access to adequate nutrition and health care, children deserve a quality education that will prepare them to compete in the global marketplace, all adults should have a job that allows them to earn a decent wage and provide a reasonable standard of living for themselves and their families, adults should have equal access to those resources that enhance employability and job mobility, every adult should have access to the financial security that comes from owning a home, and every individual who possesses entrepreneurial vision,

ingenuity, drive, and desire should have access to the resources needed to establish and grow a viable business enterprise; and

WHEREAS, in order to realize its vision, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee employs a five point strategy; firstly, its programs foster education and youth empowerment by striving for an environment in which all children grow up to attain economic self-reliance through college scholarships, early childhood literacy, Head Start, and after-school care programs; and

WHEREAS, secondly, it seeks economic empowerment by assisting all people to attain economic self-sufficiency through job training, good jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship, and wealth accumulation; and

WHEREAS, thirdly, the League strives for health and quality of life empowerment by building healthy and safe communities to eliminate health disparities through prevention, healthy eating, fitness, as well as ensuring complete access to affordable healthcare for all people; and

WHEREAS, fourthly, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee promotes civic engagement and leadership empowerment by encouraging all to take an active role in determining the direction, quality of life, public policy, and leadership in their communities through full participation as citizens and voters; and

WHEREAS, fifthly, it advances civil rights and racial justice empowerment by working to further and ensure civil rights; the League actively works to eradicate all barriers to equal participation in every aspect of American society; and

WHEREAS, public servants of the highest order, the members of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee work diligently to improve their communities, and they epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the Urban League of Tennessee is committed to continuing its tradition of striving for the attainment of the American dream, and thus it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this excellent, community-focused organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate the officers and members of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee on the occasion of the fortieth

anniversary of the organization, reflecting with deep appreciation on their numerous contributions to the community and the advancement of our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish them much continued success in all their future endeavors.

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