

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 84

By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Stevie Moore for his many contributions to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those Tennesseans who have given selflessly of themselves so that their fellow citizens might enjoy better lives; and

WHEREAS, Stevie Moore is undoubtedly one of those Tennesseans; he has dedicated his life to helping the people of his community overcome those pernicious social forces that daily threaten to bring ruin and despair; and

WHEREAS, in what today seems another life, Mr. Moore went from working as a tailor to acting as a procurer for prostitutes and trafficking in illicit drugs, and these choices resulted in several stints in the penal system; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, during a period of incarceration at the Shelby County Work House, Stevie Moore underwent an extraordinary transformation, which he attributes to the influence of the late Reverend T. M. Henderson, the facility's chaplain; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of a more compassionate force since his awakening, Mr. Moore founded Freedom From Unnecessary Negatives (FFUN) in 1984; this non-profit organization works to ameliorate or eliminate those destructive social ills that plague so many urban youths in the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to public education in his community, Mr. Moore became President of the Parent Teacher Organization at Geeter Middle School in 1995; and

WHEREAS, he also served in the Geeter Middle Parent Patrol, a group of fathers who regularly kept vigil over the school grounds; their efforts reduced the area crime rate by ninety percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Stevie Moore suffered a terrible personal tragedy: losing his own son to an act of homicide; and

WHEREAS, many parents would have collapsed under the weight of such a disaster, but Stevie Moore's anguish spurred him to even deeper involvement in his community; through FFUN, Mr. Moore began sponsoring Stop the Killing rallies to discourage gang activity and offer solace to those left in the wake of crime and violence; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their regular events, the Stop the Killing program began giving away school supplies to students and their parents through Back to School rallies at local community centers; and

WHEREAS, FFUN also hosts 3-on-3 MVP Basketball, an event that draws together local youth and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the elderly members of a community are all too often the victims of crime, so FFUN recently began the Operation Light Up for Safety campaign, which offers free installation of dusk-to-dawn lights on the homes of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, as the owner of Turning Point, Incorporated, Stevie Moore offers a model of community-based entrepreneurship; the company leases office space, coordinates party rental facilities, and offers a wide range of services, from tax assistance to counseling to business referrals, all of which support local commerce and encourage community-building; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore has belonged to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for many years, and for the past two, he has served as the Chairman of the Safety Committee in that esteemed organization; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the court of Judge J. C. McLin, Mr. Moore assists with the Information Assistance and Monitoring program (known by the acronym I. A.M.), which helps probationers rejoin society by securing their voting rights and other citizenship privileges, finding employment, and building decent credit; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Stevie Moore received the Peace Achiever award from the local radio station K97 in August 2006; and

WHEREAS, having been selected from a group of thirty thousand nominees, Mr. Moore was honored on June 19, 2007, with a Jefferson Award, a prestigious distinction bestowed for outstanding public service; and

WHEREAS, Stevie Moore has also received recognition for his community efforts from such notable entities and individuals as the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor of Shelby County, A. C. Wharton, the Shelby Crime Victims Center, the Shelby County Sheriffs Department, the Memphis City Council, the Shelby County Commissioners, and the Office of United States Congressman Steve Cohen; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his efforts as a community organizer and an entrepreneur, Mr. Moore is a devoted member of the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, where he is a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, he is also a devoted family man who enjoys the loving companionship of his wife; he is the father of five and a proud grandparent and godparent as well; and

WHEREAS, Stevie Moore exemplifies the spirit and commitment that are the embodiment of a true Tennessean, and he should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Stevie Moore for his service to the people of Memphis and the State of Tennessee, thank him for his efforts on behalf of the victims of crime as well as those who wish to transform a life of crime into a life well lived, and extend to him our heartiest wishes for continued success in the years to come.

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