

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 675

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Sam A. White, Jr., for meritorious service to his community and to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those esteemed citizens who, through their magnificent exploits and selfless service, have established themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy civic leader is Sam A. White, Jr., who stands as Governor of the Valley District Civitan; in his role as Governor, he presides over all district meetings, which bring together clubs from across Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Civitan worldwide is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities; Sam White has a special passion for Civitan and for helping those with such disabilities; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on April 6, 1953, Sam A. White, Jr., is the son of Sam and Elizabeth White; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White was reared by parents who were extremely interested in and involved with local politics; his mother always volunteered her time to work the polls, and many good-natured arguments ensued between his parents about whether each would "kill" the other's vote during the local elections; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. White's mother tended the home, his father, who served with honor and valor in service to his country during World War II, was an employee of the Yellow Freight Trucking Company; Sam and Elizabeth White resided in the Whites Creek community until their deaths; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White attended Schwab Elementary, Highland Heights Middle School, and Maplewood High School while growing up in Nashville; despite his stature, he excelled as a member on the basketball team; and

WHEREAS, when his desire for a new car left him in need of a job, he took a job at Jerry's Supermarket on North 1st Street; with his earnings from the job, he purchased a brand new 1971 Chevelle, which was referred to at the time as a "Heavy Chevy"; and

WHEREAS, Sam White continued to work at the supermarket until he graduated from high school in 1971; following his graduation, he became an employee of the E-Z Finance Company in Nashville, where he still works today; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty-eight years with E-Z Finance, Mr. White has witnessed a multitude of changes, has worked with all types of people, has been the victim of a robbery, and has worked under two generations of owners; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Sam White was joined in holy matrimony to Paulette Meadows at Ivy Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville; the young couple made their home in East Nashville, purchasing their first home in 1978 in the Inglewood community; and

WHEREAS, Sam and Paulette White were blessed with a child, Chad White, in 1981; the family moved to Robertson County in 1993; and

WHEREAS, while living in Inglewood, Mr. White coached Little League baseball at Jess Neely in Shelby Park for many years, and his proudest moment was the year his team went undefeated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White was instrumental in the fundraising for the park and he filled every role from planning opening day festivities to raking baseball fields; and

WHEREAS, Sam White has always played an active and intentional role in the life of his son, who has grown into a fine young man with a family of his own; Sam and Paulette White are now the proud grandparents of Bennett Ryan, who is the "apple of his Pop's eye"; and

WHEREAS, Sam White first became a member of the Inglewood Civitan when he lived in Nashville, and he has been a member of Civitan for twenty years; he is now a member of the Green Ridge Civitan, and he has given of his time and many talents standing as Civitan President, Area Director, and Governor of the Valley District Civitan; and

WHEREAS, while active in the Inglewood Civitan, Mr. White and his family met a young girl named Amanda at a Christmas party for needy children; for years, he and his family cared for the girl during most weekends and summer vacations, taking her on her first plane ride, introducing her to the beauty and expanse of the ocean, and buying her Christmas presents year after year; and

WHEREAS, a family with an innate capacity for compassion and servitude, the White family became cheerleaders for Amanda, nearly bursting with pride when she graduated high school at the top of her class; and

WHEREAS, Amanda's story is just one in a multitude that illustrate Sam White's compassion, which teaches how to love others well, not only serving those in need but bringing them in and accepting them as family; and

WHEREAS, after building a new home and moving to Greenbrier, Sam White became a charter member of the Green Ridge Civitan; he has made many friends in his new community and is currently working with other Civitan members to organize new Clubs; and

WHEREAS, on a local club level, he enjoys volunteering at the Special Olympic Games, presenting medals to the athletes, and he also has a passion for working with veterans; and

WHEREAS, in what little free time he has, Sam White is an avid Nascar, motorcycle, and football fan; and

WHEREAS, Sam White is a devout and faithful member of the Metro Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, as is the case with many great men and women, Sam White, Jr., may not fully understand the depth and breadth of his influence on his community and on those in need; it can be certain, however, that he is deeply respected by his community and should be honored by the State of Tennessee for his service as Governor of the Valley District Civitan, his twenty years of service to the Civitan Club, and his lifetime of service to the people of his community; 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 Sam A. White, Jr., for his many years of

humble yet influential service to the Civitan Club, his community, and to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, applauding his service in the role of Governor of the Civitan Valley District.

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