

HOUSE RESOLUTION 129

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Claudine and Vincent Simms on the celebration of their seventieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1939, Claudine and Vincent Simms were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Simms have been highly respected citizens of their community for many years; since 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Simms have been co-owners of Simms TV in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of the business, the Simmses, along with his brother, Julian Simms, repaired radios in the days before television, while today the couple, along with their son, Dean Simms, offer electronic repair services and sell compact discs, music books, a variety of collectibles, televisions, and a host of other electronic items; and

WHEREAS, the couple first met after Claudine Simms left her hometown of Watertown after high school to attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where Mr. Simms was enrolled in a summer refresher course; and

WHEREAS, after five dates in nine days, the couple were engaged, and six months later they married; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, less than three years into their marriage, Vincent Simms answered his country's call to arms, joining the United States Army to become an instructor in radar school in Florida; when he was discharged in 1947, Mr. Simms, faced with a poor post-war job market, and his brother, Julian, an airplane mechanic, decided to start their own business; and

WHEREAS, the three Simmses opened their store in what is now the Archives Building in Lebanon, and after three years of working with his brother and sister-in-law, Julian Simms returned to California and a job he had held previously; and

WHEREAS, as technology progressed, the Simmses store added new items to their inventory; Simms TV offered the first television sets to be found in Lebanon, and the store became quite an attraction; and

WHEREAS, when the Simmses' son, Dean Simms, graduated from college, the couple offered him a third of the business, and he accepted; he has remained at Simms TV ever since, attending to electronic repairs and physical work while his parents handle sales; and

WHEREAS, their success in business allowed the Simmses to travel regularly, and the couple have visited many of the countries in Europe and numerous locations all over the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, in addition to travel and business, Claudine and Vincent Simms have enjoyed their family immensely; the couple have two granddaughters, Michelle and Melissa; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Simmses' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Claudine and Vincent Simms on the celebration of their seventieth wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness 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.