

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 38

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the African American Heritage Society's tenth annual "Black Tie Affair" as well as the tenth anniversary of the opening of the McLemore House Museum.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to recognize those exemplary organizations and worthwhile community events that have helped to preserve Tennessee's rich heritage and which provide invaluable learning experiences for our society; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding organization is the African American Heritage Society, which will be hosting its tenth annual "Black Tie Affair" on February 4, 2011, at the Embassy Suites in Cool Springs; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by The Factory, HCA Tri-Star, Wal-Mart, and the Williamson Medical Center, this spectacular event's theme is "Night of the Stars" and will be a time filled with entertainment, awards, and deep gratitude for all those who have made the dream of the African-American Heritage Society and the McLemore House African Museum a reality; and

WHEREAS, established in 1998, the African American Heritage Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the understanding and appreciation of African-American culture as well as collecting, preserving, and interpreting priceless artifacts pertaining to Williamson County African-American heritage; and

WHEREAS, the first "Black Tie Affair" was held on, February 1, 2002, in celebration of the opening of the McLemore House African Museum, which was the home of former slave and successful farmer, Harvey McLemore; and

WHEREAS, situated in the prosperous African American neighborhood known as Hard Bargain, this simple white frame house was home to generations of McLemore family members for more than 117 years; and

WHEREAS, opened to the public in 2002, the McLemore House African Museum is now one of the Franklin's most valuable historic resources and was even featured during the National Trust for Historic Preservation's national conference in Nashville during the fall of 2009; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of the African American Heritage Society and numerous public spirited citizens, this timeless home has become a treasure trove of historically fascinating items, including a kitchen fit with an old-timey butter churn, gingham curtains, and an antique wood-fueled stove: The museum frequently hosts African American history programs, which enlighten the next generation of Tennesseans on a wide range of African American cultural topics including the slaves use of spirituals as a means of community and the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II; and

WHEREAS, today, the McLemore House African Museum is the oldest remaining black residence in Franklin and stands as a permanent monument to the extraordinary accomplishments and traditions of the African American Community in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, outstanding organizations such as the African American Heritage Society and its members are wholly committed to the most noble precepts of public service, and they should be specially recognized on this momentous occasion now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members of the African American Heritage Society upon the tenth anniversary of both their "Black Tie Affair" and the opening of the McLemore House African American Museum, commend their dedication to the promotion and preservation of African American history and culture, and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

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