

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 157

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to recognize and celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee was founded in 1946 by Middle Tennessee's first psychiatrist, Dr. Frank Luton; and

WHEREAS, evincing a strong commitment to serving the needs of their community, the Mental Health Association founded or launched the Dede Wallace Center, Park Center, Tennessee Voices for Children, the Crisis Intervention Center, and other Middle Tennessee entities that have continued to address behavioral health; and

WHEREAS, for more than a quarter century, the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee has addressed such concerns as Alzheimer's disease and healthy aging, and provided invaluable assistance to Alzheimer's caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the I.C. HOPE program, designed to dispel negative images associated with mental illness, has been adopted and is licensed in six other states as a means to address bullying, grief, depression, eating disorders, anxiety, suicide prevention, body image, and more; and

WHEREAS, other programs have included or focused on suicide prevention, help for Latina women, school success and retention, the TennCare Partners Advocacy Line, outreach to disenfranchised populations, the Help Line, community education, Mental Health University for professional education, Compeer, resources through the J. Speed Thomas Mental Health Assistance Center, and more; and

WHEREAS, all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives, and over 100,000 Middle Tennesseans annually turn to the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee for increased mental health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health has documented that one in four adults have a diagnosable mental illness each year; and

WHEREAS, half of all lifetime mental health cases begin at age fourteen, demonstrating that prevention and early intervention are effective and necessary; and

WHEREAS, there is truly no health without mental health; 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 hereby recognize and celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee on March 25, 2011, encouraging all Tennesseans to increase their awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

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