

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 451

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Austin and Vera Cook on the celebration of their 50th 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, Austin and Vera Cook were joined in holy matrimony on September 1, 1961, 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. Cook have been highly respected citizens of the Bristol, Virginia community for many years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, the devoted couple met while Mrs. Cook was attending Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, and Mr. Cook was serving with acumen and alacrity as a barber; on their first date, Austin Cook swept Vera Cook off her feet, and the young love birds wed soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, with deep and abiding faith, the Cooks moved to Bristol, Virginia in 1967, for Mr. Cook to use his gift of preaching as the pastor of Victory Baptist Church, a small congregation with a membership of only forty; and

WHEREAS, since taking the helm, Austin Cook has served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for Victory Baptist Church and the Bristol community as a whole, eventually growing the fellowship to over 1,000 congregants; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart servant of the Almighty, Mrs. Cook has been an active participant in the Church's children's ministry and worked assiduously for many years as a kindergarten teacher at the local Christian school; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced three children: Sonia, Joel, and Dale, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, they are also the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for fifty 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 Cooks' 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Austin and Vera Cook on the celebration of their 50th 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.