

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 535

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the International FolkFest upon the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations and their remarkable members who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is the International FolkFest, whose members are committed to the education and preservation of world culture through music and dance; and

WHEREAS, the festival began in 1982 and was responsible for bringing musical and dance groups from more than fifty countries to Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, some of the countries that have visited the community are Austria, Brazil, the former Czechoslovakia, England, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, Russia, Scotland, Sicily, Thailand, and the former Yugoslavia; and

WHEREAS, the festival ended in 1997, but as the years passed, interest mounted in reviving the international celebration of heritage and music, and the festival was reintroduced to downtown Murfreesboro in 2004, with groups from Finland, France, and Mexico performing; and

WHEREAS, the festival is coordinated by the International Folkloric Society (IFS), a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and preserve international cultural heritage with a primary focus on the arts; and

WHEREAS, the IFS, which was founded in 1986, is largely responsible for sending traditional Appalachian dancers and musicians to festivals all over the world and has also made it possible for overseas performers to bring their talents and heritage to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the IFS is to create a festival that increases tourism and local business patronage each year; and

WHEREAS, this year's International FolkFest is scheduled to take place June 10-17, 2012, and promises to be a week of excitement and education for everyone involved; and

WHEREAS, as the International FolkFest celebrates its rich history of thirty years, it is appropriate to honor the many regional and worldwide festival performers, both past and present, who have volunteered their time, talents, and resources in order to culturally enhance these communities and share their passion for their heritage through the arts of music and dance; and

WHEREAS, the International FolkFest is most assuredly worthy of this General Assembly's recognition and approbation; 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 commend the performers of the International FolkFest for their tireless dedication to making the State of Tennessee a more diverse place, congratulate them on the celebration of the festival's thirtieth anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all 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.